

## DEUTSCHER LEBENSTIL UND DEUTSCHE KULTUR (Austrian Lifestyle and Culture)

### “The Sound of Music” celebrates 50 years



Julie Andrews teaches the children “Do-Re-Mi” in “The Sound of Music.”

ple all the time who adore the film, and I meet just as many people who just scowl at the very mention of the name,” he said in a recent phone call.

Mr. Monush, whose day job is assistant curator at the Paley Center for Media in New York, first saw the movie as a 6-year-old at a theater in Asbury Park, N.J. It was his sister’s 10th birthday in October 1965, and an aunt had an extra ticket and because it starred the actress from “Mary Poppins,” he was thrilled to tag along.

He didn’t really understand who the Nazis were, but he knew they were menacing.

“I loved it in 1965 and I still love it,” he said. “Every time I see it, it still elevates me.”

As for why it took the world by storm in 1965 and forever after, he’s not quite sure.

“We’ve all seen movies that we find absolutely wonderful that don’t make anywhere near as much money and don’t endure as well.”

It has a great score, but so do other films that don’t make a cent.

“It is extremely good storytelling. I mean, I think Robert Wise deservedly won that Academy Award for best director,” making a nearly three-hour movie that flies by. “And the casting of Julie Andrews is pivotal, it’s just pivotal... Somehow she manages to make that character so real and never cloying. I really think she’s an essential

part of why people fell in love with the movie.”

As the 50th anniversary approaches, some other reasons why it flourished:

**Misty water-colored memories** — Many baby boomers remember getting dressed in their Sunday finery and traveling to an old-fashioned movie palace with their family to watch the picture advertised as “The Happiest Sound in All the World.” If the theater was later demolished, as the Nixon was, the memory is further burnished.

Even if, as a jaundiced adult, you think of it as treacle, you cannot deny your childhood affection for it. And, if you come across it on television, you may not watch the entire movie but