Hollywood In Focus

—by W. H. Mooring—

Sam Goldwyn confronts his fellow producers with the blunt charge that Hollywood is "Out of Touch." "People have been asking me what's the matter with Hollywood," says Goldwyn. "They want to know why the pictures have been so poor this year."

W. H. Mooring

He suggests that Hollywood has run out of ideas; that there are not enough good writers to turn out 300 or 400 screenplays a year.

It does seem amazing to be told that if any Hollywood does not produce too many pictures, but rather that there are too many times over.

If there are not enough good writers in Hollywood, then perhaps we wish Mr. Kim Goldwyn would look further afield till they find some.

The great writers whose names endure were not necessarily successful as promoters. Few of them made the kind of money that is a requisite before a fellow is considered worthy to rub shoulders, professionally or socially, with the creative functionaries of Hollywood, where to get a writing contract these days, one needs to be either a rich salesman or a cousin.

Mr. Goldwyn is at least partly right when he says that "Hollywood is shy of things to say because it has gotten too far from the average person" and it may well prove true that competition from foreign film industries will "provide the threat that Hollywood needs to stir itself out of its present complacency."

For the purpose of fair argument, however, Mr. Goldwyn might have been more specific as to what he means by "things to say."

He insists that what the public desires in its movie entertainment is "some reflection of its own emotional turmoil" and that foreign film producers, notably the British have "made great progress" because they "have applied a viewpoint that is broader and more international" than Hollywood's and are thus getting "closer to the people by reflecting the intimate universality of everyday living."

To this producer Darryl Zanuck replies with a list of recent motion pictures, including "The Yearling," "Duel in The Sun," "It's a Wonderful Life," "Life With Father," "The Razor's Edge," "The Lost Weekend," "The Bells of St. Mary's," "Anna and The King of Siam," "The Spiral Staircase" and Mr. Goldwyn's own latest super film, "The Best Years of Our Lives," all of which he implies have something to say. Mr. Zanuck points out that "Hollywood must supply the requirements of a world-wide market" and that "certain films which may not be palatable to sophisticated metropolitan audiences frequently prove most acceptable to theatergoers in rural communities and foreign areas."

Between Goldwyn and Zanuck we have a wide gap of reasoning but both have touched upon pertinent facts.

"The Best Years of Our Lives," now drawing vast crowds and sending the critics into ecstasies, reasonably offers a key to Mr. Goldwyn's evaluation of a motion picture that has "things to say."

This powerful screenplay pungently written by Robert Sherwood, is based on MacKinlay Kantor's novel, "Glory For Me," and deals with the alleged experiences and reactions of three returning war veterans. It is directed by William Wyler, an Academy winner who did service during the war and it is vigorous, though not entirely reliable, documentation.

"Like many other Hollywood screen stories with "Something to Say," it looks into the minds of everyday people as through the rippled out-focus of a Beverly Hills swimming pool and, instead of reporting roundly upon the problems of the returning veterans, leans from the social story written by the war, only the ugliest of facts. It patronizes millions of men who fought and suffered for a way of life in which they believe, but which few Hollywood writers seem either to understand or to share.

Taken literally it may insult many a veteran with its suggestion that the best way a returning ex-soldier could find to spend his first evening with the folks was on a drunken spree.

It places a chip on the shoulders of ex-service characters who are presented as symbols and the chips are stamped right through as "made in Hollywood."

Neither Goldwyn nor Zanuck may expect to please all the people, all the time. They may heed, however, a public demand for more films designed to lift the pressure of "emotional turmoil" by pointing an honest way out of the spiritual and political confusion which materialistic madness has produced in the world.

Blind rebelliousness suggested to a confused majority by a money-bemused Hollywood minority is not going to help.

Portugese Women's Gift To be Presented to Pope

Lisbon.—(RNS)—A gold chalice, studded with rubies and sapphires, will be presented to Pope Pius XII on behalf of Portuguese women on Dec. 8, feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The Most Rev. Peter Cirigel, Papal Nuncio here, will make the presentation.

Legion of Decency Pledge

Here is the full text of the Legion of Decency Pledge to be given Sunday, December 5, at all the Masses.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

I condemn indecent and immoral pictures and those which glorify crime or criminals. I promise to unite with all who protest against them.

I acknowledge my obligation to form a right conscience about pictures that are dangerous to my moral life.

As a member of the Legion of Decency, I pledge myself to see only good pictures. I promise, further, to stay away altogether from places of amusement which make a practice of showing pictures that can be an occasion of sin.

I promise to refrain from purchasing and reading anything which violates the Code of the National Organization for Decent Literature, and

I promise not to enter places where such literature continues to be sold.

Movie Guide

At the Theaters

RKO Palace

Notorious, A-2
Vacation in Reno, A-2

Temple

San Quentin, A-2
My Pal Trigger, A-1

Century

Two Years Before the Mast, A-1

Regent

Margie, A-1
Assumption, A-2

Capitol

The Time of Their Lives, A-2
Sister Kenny, A-1

Little

Devotion, A-1

(Elmira)

Keeney

The Verdict, B
The Stranger, A-2

Regent

San Quentin, A-2
Genius at Work (not classified)
Kings Row, A-2
Wild Bill Hickok (not classified)

Strand

Unconquered Bandit (not classified)

Mot Cargo, A-1
Nobody Lives Forever, A-2
Cuban Fete, A-1
Green Years, A-1
Change in Order, A-1
Danger Woman, A, A-2
Santa Fe Rides (not classified)

Capitol

The Strange Affairs of Uncle Harry, A-2
George White's Scandals, A-2
Bait on Texas Moon, A-1
Gas Exciting Week, A-2
The Dark Corner, A-2
It Should Happen to a Dog, A-1

Colonial

Dark Mirror, A-2
Margie, A-1

Jap Soldier Saved Relics

Mt. Columbans, — (NC) — From a St. Columban's mission-er interned in Mandalay throughout the War comes a story of the saving of the sacred relics and chalice of the mission church at Bhamo, Burma, by an unknown Japanese soldier.

"After we had been put in the Bhamo jail by the Japanese in 1942," relates the Rev. Bernard Way of St. Columban's, "an Italian priest came to tell us that our church had been pillaged and destroyed. He handed Msgr. Usher (Msgr. Patrick Usher, S.S.C., pastor of the Bhamo mission) a scrap of paper which he had found on the altar."

A few French sentences had been hastily scribbled on the paper, Father Way said. It read: "I am a student of the Society of Mary. I have taken charge of your sacred relics and chalice. I will be going into China and will give them to the first priest I meet on the way." The note was unsigned.

"Three years later, when we were interned in Mandalay," continued Father Way, "the pastor of Lashio on the old Burma Road which linked Burma with China, was brought in by the Japanese to share our 'protective custody.' When he heard that we were from Bhamo, he told us how a young Japanese soldier had called at his church many months before and had handed over the sacred relics and the chalice."

PALACE
NOW PLAYING
GEORGE RAFT
LYNN BARI in
NOCTURNE
Plus
JACK HALEY
ANN JEFFREYS in
VACATION IN RENO

TEMPLE
NOW PLAYING
Lawrence Tierney in
SAN QUENTIN
Plus
Roy Rogers in
MY PAL TRIGGER

Picture Parade

The following reviews give William H. Mooring's estimate of the entertainment value of new motion pictures. **** Indicates an Outstanding picture. *** Excellent. ** Good. * Fair. x Weak. Legion of Decency listing of the same picture is shown in parentheses.

"THE JOLSON STORY" ** (Family) Columbia. Nostalgic tunes, heavily sentimental story contain effective exploitation of technicolor in a lavish show about a once celebrated showman, sums up the story of Al Jolson. As a biographical effort, the screenplay by Stephen Longstreet, Harry Chandlee and Andrew Solt, is neither accurate nor complete although the film runs almost two and a half hours.

It is becoming a Hollywood habit to varnish the facts of real life stories and, when dealing with figures of the theatrical world, to suggest that whether a genius or a mere public idol, the "star performer" must sacrifice all, marriage included, for the sake of serving the public.

Asa Joelson, son of Cantor Joelson, may have been born to the show world with a voice worth millions; he certainly was the first big star of the talkies, but he was not deserted, as the story suggests, by his wife Ruby Keeler because she felt herself a hindrance to his career. Although nicely played by Evelyn Keyes, Mrs. Al Jolson is made to look like a consummate idiot.

No woman who had enjoyed years of happy marriage as she is seen to do, would so lose all sense of proportion as to end it merely to free her husband for more public activity. The climax of an otherwise entertaining and at times, quite amusing film, falls flat on this fatuous fumble at the true nature of marriage. It presents, too, unfair comparison between the marital ideals of Al Jolson's gentile wife and those of his Jewish mother. Jolson is splendidly portrayed by Larry Parks, with Scotty Beckett matching up perfectly in the boyhood sequence.

Sixteen songs from Jolson's repertoire are crammed into the story, their incidence often upsetting dramatic flow, although "musical" fans may feel compensated, especially since Jolson himself recorded the numbers which emerge so easily from Parks' mouth.

Produced by columnist Sidney Skolsky and directed by Alfred E. Green this obviously is a big popular box-office attraction, but it does not bear examination as a story.

Good work is put in by William Demarest, William Forrest, Bill Goodwin, Ludwig Donath, and Tamara Shayne, with neat cameos by John Alexander, Edwin Maxwell and Pedro de Cordoba. Magnificent mush sums it up.

"I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU" * (Adults). Republic. Entrancing pianoforte renditions of Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Mendelssohn Liszt, Beeethoven and Bach, recorded by Arthur Rubinstein, are utterly wasted in this artificial story. One might better settle for an evening with the phonograph. Warped characters and petty professional jealousies between self styled "great" musicians, remind one too forcibly that this is a screenplay made in Hollywood, of Hollywood. Based on Borden Chase's magazine story "Concerto,' the story follows Trilby and Svengali design and tells of a young woman pianist (Catherine McLeod) who comes under the domination of an eccentric maestro (Philips Dorn) with whom she believes herself in love. When he humiliates her publicly she leaves him, goes back to her farm home, marries a devoted young farm-hand (William Carter), gives up her music and becomes thoroughly embittered. Later, when her daughter assays to follow in her footsteps she substitutes at a public recital under the same maestro and discovers that she has loved her husband all the time! Casting is not ideal and performances are unconvincing.

"NEVER SAY GOODBYE" ** (Obj. in Part) Warners. This story has the novel merit of showing the tragedy of divorce and the light headed folly with which so many readily enter into it. Starring Errol Flynn with Eleanor Parker. It presents in comedy vein, a tale of a broken home and the little girl who suffers the worst of it.

Patti Brady is delightful as the child who must spend six months with Daddy and the other six with Mummy, and who eats her little heart out to get them to see sense and come together again. There are a few unnecessarily suggestive lines, snidely dragged into a sequence dealing with a U. S. Marine (Forrest Tucker), whom the wife uses to provoke her husband's jealousy.

This same marine throws Flynn clear over his shoulder, not once, but twice, which ought to arouse cheers in some quarters and at least proves that Warners dare drop the superman appellation they so firmly attached to Flynn in previous and more heroic roles. As an avowed non-member of the Flynn admiration society, I confess I enjoyed this.

SCHINE THEATRES
All Theatres Open 4:30 P. M.
SAT., SUN. and HOLIDAYS
Matinees Starting 2 P. M.

RIVIERA STATE
Robt. Young, Dorothy McGuire
CLAUDIA AND DAVID
Geo. Raft, Sylvia Sidney
MR. ACE

MADISON MONROE
II. Bogart, Lauren Bacall
THE BIG SLEEP
Fred Brady, Paula Drew
SLIGHTLY SCANDALOUS

LIBERTY
Barbara Stanwyck, V. Heflin
Strange Love of Martha Ivers
Leslie Brooks, Kobt. Stanton
IT'S GREAT TO BE YOUNG

CAMEO
Jon Hall, Walter Pidgeon
HOLIDAY IN MEXICO
Tom Conway, Rita Corday
FALCON'S ALIBI

WEST END
Jeanne Crain, Carmel Wilde
CENTENNIAL SUMMER
Jackie Jenkins, Skippy Homeier
BOY'S RANCH

DIXIE
Dana Andrews, Susan Hayward
CANYON PASSAGE
Farley Granger, Lynn Merrick
DANGEROUS BUSINESS

LAKE
Jeanne Crain, Carmel Wilde
CENTENNIAL SUMMER
Richard Dix, Nina Vale
MYSTERIOUS INTRUDER

RIALTO
Abbott and Costello
The Time of Their Lives
Don Defore, Jane Frazee
BLACK ANGEL

TEMPLE
Marshall Thompson, Gen. Tobias
CALLANT BESS

Papal Movie Premiere Set

New York — (NC) — Providing intimate glimpses into the daily life of His Holiness Pope Pius XII, a feature-length, historical movie, "The Story of The Pope," will have its world premier here December 21 at the Republic Theater.

His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, will appear in an introduction and Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, of the Catholic University of America, will be the narrator of the film which was made within the Vatican with the approval of the Holy See.

A part of the proceeds from the New York showing as well as from the national distribution of the film will be earmarked for War Relief Services — National Catholic Welfare Conference, world-wide Catholic relief organization. The script for the movie was prepared by John Meehan and editorial supervision was by Walter Klee.

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Paramount News

REGENT MAIN 1941
THE WHOLE TOWN IS IN LOVE WITH MARGIE
4th FINAL WEEK!
JEANNE CRAIN
as MARGIE
Plus!
RICHARD ARLEN
in "ACCOMPLICE"

CAPITOL MAIN 1941
BUD ABBOTT · LOU COSTELLO
"The Time of Their Lives"
PLUS!
Richard Arlen · Andy Devine
RUSSELL · KNOX

National Legion of Decency List

DECEMBER 9, 1948

CLASS A-1—Unobjectionable for General Patronage

Previously Reviewed

Aces and the King of Siam	Cummings Code	Red River Renegades
Accused	Haunted Mine, The	Renegades of
Beauty and the Bandit	Mexicali Rose	Return of Rusty, The
Black Eagles	Outlaws of Nevada	Rio Grande Raiders
Blonde Ghost, The	Phantom Rider	Rolling Home
Blonde Savage	Range Beyond the Blue	Roll on Texas Moon
Blondie's Reward	Range Law	Rustler's Rhapsody
Blondie's Secret	Range Renegades	Shadows on the Range
Bowery Buckaroos	Range Terror Rustlers	Shadows Over Chinatown
Boys' Ranch	Rangers Ride	Smuggler's Gold
Canadian Pacific	Red Stallion	Song of the Drifter
Canadian Pacific	Return of Rusty, The	Song of the Sierras
Cheyenne Takes Over	Rim of the Canyon	Song of the Sunset
Cheyenne Takes Over	Rose of the Rancho	Speed to Burn
Cluny Brown	Sacramento Trail	Stagecoach to Denver
Code of the Saddle	Sea of Grass, The	Station West
Code of the Silver Sage	Secret Service Investigator	Strange Conquest
Colorado Pioneers	Sheriff of Medicine Bend	Strange Holiday
Courtship of Eddie's Father	Sheriff of Redwood Valley	Strangler, The
Cowboy and the Indians	Shoot to Kill	Strangler of the Swamp
Cowboy and the Prizefighter	Silver Trail, The	Strangler's Web
Cowboy Blues	Sing While You Dance	Sunset Carbine
Cyclone Prairie Rangers	Singing Guns	Sunset Pass
Dalton Gang, The	Six Gun Law	Swing the Western Way
Dangerous Money	Six Gun Mesa	Tahiti Nights
Dark Alibi	Six Gun Serenade	Tarzan's Magic Fountain
Dark Horse, The	Smart Woman	Tex Granger
Desert Horseman, The	Smoky Canyon	Texas Panhandle
Devil's Playground	Son of Rusty	Texas Terrors
Do You Love Me	Song of the Drifter	Thirteen Lead Soldiers
Down Missouri Way	Song of the Sierras	Three Little Girls at Sea
Dright River	Song of the Sunset	Three Wise Fools
El Paso Kid	Speed to Burn	Tioga Kid
Faithful in My Fashion	Stagecoach to Denver	Trail to Mexico
Father's Adventure, The	Station West	Trigger Fingers
Fool's Gold	Strange Conquest	True Glory, The
Gallant Bess	Strangler of the Swamp	Tumbleweed Trail
Gallant Journey	Sunset Carbine	Two Fisted Stranger
Gay Blades	Sunset Pass	Two Guns From Harrison
Gay Cavalier, The	Swing the Western Way	Two Years Before the Mast
Gentlemen from Texas, The	Tahiti Nights	Under Nevada Skies
Gentleman's Jog Palooka	Tarzan's Magic Fountain	Wife of Monte Cristo, The
Ghost of Hidden Valley	Tex Granger	Wild Weekly
Great Dan	Texas Panhandle	
	Thirteen Lead Soldiers	

CLASS A-2—Unobjectionable for Adults

Reviewed This Week

Lady in the Lake — Man from Morocco — Time, the Place, the Girl, The — Six Gunmen

Previously Reviewed

Assumption	Freddie Steps Out	Secret of the Whistler
Angel on My Shoulder	French Key, The	Shadowed
Bachelor's Daughters, The	From This Day Forward	Shock
Bedlam	Game of Death, A	Smashing Through
Behind Green Lights	Henry the Fifth	Somewhere in the Night
Below the Deadline	Her Adventurous Night	Spectre of the Rose
Big Town Scandal	Hero's Secret, The	Stairway, The
Blondie for a Day	High School Hero	Step By Step
Bowery Buckaroos	Homicide for Three	So Dark the Night
Brief Encounter	In Fast Company	Stormy Waters
Byrnie Mab	Invisible Informer, The	Strange Conquest
Caesar and Cleopatra	Jungle Queen	Strange Holiday
Campus Passions	Killers, The	Strangler, The
Car Crooks, The	Lady Lies	Strange Triangle
Centennial Summer	Last Crooked Mile, The	Strange Voyage
Chase, The	Live Wire, The	Strange Woman, The
Child of Divorce	Little Miss Justice	Suite Step Out
Climb and Danger	Mysteries of the Seven Seas	Take a Letter Darling
Chips Rigden	Mexicali Rose	Tell the Judge Time
Cockeyed Miracle, The	Man Who Dared, The	Time of Their Lives, The
Crack-Up	Missing Lady, The	Truth About Murder, The
Criminal Court	Monsieur Beaucaire	Two Blind People
Dakota	My Darling Clementine	Undercurrent
Danger Woman	Mysterious Intruder	Unknown, The
The Dark Angel	Mysterious Mr. Valentine	Vacation in Reno
Dark Corner, The	Night and Day	Valley of the Zombies
Dark Mirror, The	Night Train to Memphis	Walls Came Tumbling Down, The
Deception	Nobody Lives Forever	Waltz Time
Decoy	Notorious	Wanted For Murder
Devil Mask, The	Northwest Stampede	White Tie and Tails
Dick Tracy versus Cueball	Phantom Thief, The	Wife Wanted
Drifting Along	Rendezvous with Annie	Without Reservations
Earl Carroll Sketchbook	Renegades	Years Between, The
Fear	Perfect Marriage, The	Young Widow
Flight to Nowhere		

CLASS B—Objectionable in Part

Reviewed This Week

Verdict, The (Objection: Light treatment of marriage, suggestive lines, suggestive dance)

Previously Reviewed

Adventures in Marbmark	Lady Luck	Seventh Veil, The
Appointment for Murder	Love to the Dole	Shadow of a Woman
Big Sleep, The	Man in Grey, The	She Wore the Yellow Ribbon
Blue Skies	Mr. Ace	Strange Love of Martha Ivers
Cross My Heart	Never Say Goodbye	Tap-ger
Desirable Lady	Night in Paradise, A	Tempest
Diary of a Chambermaid	Notorious Gentlemen	That Night with You
Easy To Wed	Pillow of Death	They Were Sisters
Feather Girl	Portrait of a Woman	Thrill of Brazil
Gentleman Misbehaves, The	Postman Always Rings Twice, The	Traffic in Crime
G. I. War Brides	Scandal in Paris	Tonight and Every Night
Glass Alibi, The	Open City	Undercover Woman
Janie Gets Married	Queen of Burlesque	Wedding Guest's Daughter, The
Jungle Captive	Saratoga Trunk	White Rose
Kitty	Searching Wind, The	Wicked Lady, The

CLASS C—Condemned

Previously Reviewed

Dust to Dust	No Greater Sin	Reefer Madness
Confession of a Vice Baron	Outlaw, The	Soul to Pawn
Child Bride	Passion Island	Stolen Paradise
Carnival in Flanders	Pete Kelly's Blues	Temptation (Spanish)
Rosary	Pete to Make	

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