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Hollywood In Towns

—by W. H. Moering—

Some of the Hollywood screen writers and actors are agitated about the increasing number of film "revivals."

W. H. Moering

Hollywood used to call them "reissues" and they generally played only at a few specialized theaters where they were reverently referred to as "old favorites."

In the February issue of "The Screen Writer," official organ of the Screen Writers Guild, an anonymous member ventilates the fact that every time an old film is dusted off for another power venture, one or two, or even three or four screen writers, lose a job. The writers responsible for these old movie plays get nothing when a film is "revived," nor even if it makes a fresh picture for the film company to which it belongs.

There is a big move afoot to form what is called the AAA. "Triple A" would stand up for royalties payable to screen writers on all film revivals and would make all screen rights revertible to the author after a film has been made a certain length of time.

The screen writers fear that if they have to "fight" the film producers to gain this point, the producers in turn may decide to hold out against them by not making any new films for a whole year or even more. They could replay enough of the old ones to keep the theaters going.

As far as I am aware no one in the movie business, or among the press critics of the secular press, has presented the public side of the situation.

I would like to ask the people who buy tickets at the box office what they think about these film revivals.

How many people, for instance, have completely forgotten the titles of many of the films they saw and enjoyed from three to five years back? That some have I know from letters of complaint which reach my desk.

Plenty of people have told me they would like a chance to see again this or that film which they enjoyed long ago, or to catch one or another of the big movies they missed during the original release.

On the other hand, many people feel cheated when they turn into a theater expecting to see something new and find on the bill a film they already have seen. The title didn't convey anything to them. The advertising did not warn them that this was a revival. They hadn't gone to a theater where old film successes were acknowledged to be regular fare. Why should they not feel cheated?

There is a great deal to be said in favor of bringing back to the screen films of the past, especially those which were a great deal more entertaining than some of the multi-million dollar mistakes of the present.

Plainly, however, the film industry is under an obligation to make clear to the public that these films are the very same ones shown earlier. There should be no hidden lines of small type in slick advertisements. There should be plain and honest statement in every advertisement and on every theater marquee whenever an old film is re-offered to the public.

Bury Alive Threat

Budapest — According to The Hungarian Nation, the Mariavites, a group composed mainly of Polish immigrants, seized the Catholic priest of the village and dragged him off to the cemetery, where they had threatened to bury him alive. Police intervened to save the priest, the Rev. Ladislas Farsang.

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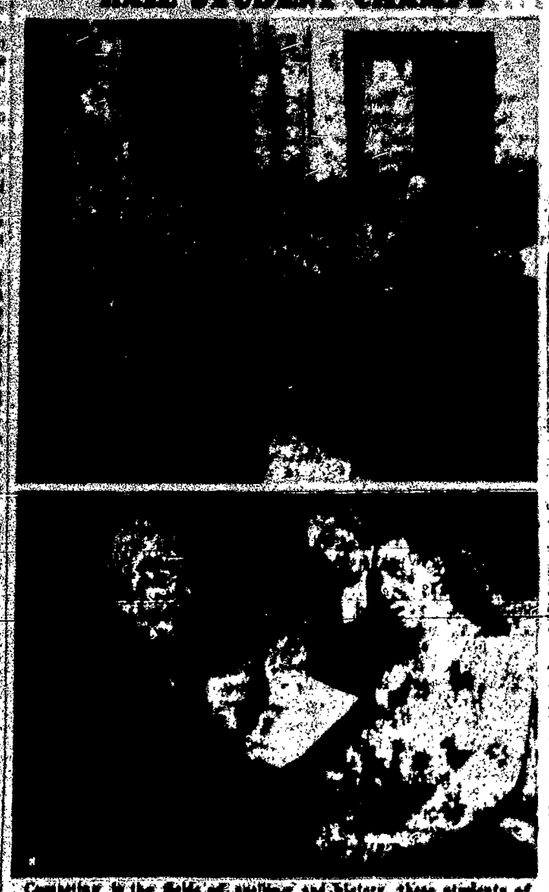

Competing in the fields of spelling and history, these students of Catholic schools achieved top honors in hotly contested events. In the upper photo, schoolmates rush to congratulate 13-year-old Eleanor Szymanski, after she had been picked as champion speller among 120,000 children in the Catholic and Lutheran schools of Chicago and the county public schools outside Chicago. (Daily News photo.) Below, Frank McNarry, 17, senior at LaSalle Academy, New York, receives the congratulations of his principal and teacher as he was named American History Champion of the High Schools of the United States. He competed with finalists from 75 cities in the Hearst Newspapers' History Contest. Journal-American photo. (NC Photos)

California Sodalists Pledge Film Boycott

Los Angeles — Twenty-five thousand Catholic youths of Southern California have taken a husky swing at indecent motion pictures.

In united action they resolved not to attend the film "Duel in the Sun," or any other immoral film now showing or in production.

As a further protest against the film industry, which is supposed to govern itself through the Motion Picture Production Code, local Catholic students have resolved not to attend any movies during the month of February.

Protest Against Industry

"We have taken this drastic action," said Jacqueline Stetler, a senior at Mayfield School, "only as a protest against the industry for allowing some studio to 'get through' immoral films."

Miss Stetler added that she and the rest of the Sodality group realize that thousands of clean-minded persons are dependent upon the motion picture industry for employment.

"We like films—clean, wholesome films," she added, "but if staying away from all movies for one month will shake the industry into cleaning up filthy pictures, then we feel we have done the right thing."

Vacant Theater Seats

Catholic youth, along with other American teen-agers and those in their early twenties, form the major portion of the 85,000,000 weekly movie audience.

The 25,000 Sodality members in Los Angeles have pledged concentrated effort in their indecency protest" campaign.

Individual families, other relatives, friends and neighbors will be contacted personally by the Sodalist in order to make their pledge of abstaining from indecent films 100-per cent effective.

Plans were set to secure the support of all high school Sodalities (numbering 6,000,000 members in the United States) and other Catholic groups to pledge their aid in protesting immoral films.

Movie Guide

At the Theaters

RKO Palace
The Razor's Edge, A-2

Temple
Windjammer, A-1
Daniel Boone, A-1

Century
Cross My Heart, B

Regent
The Time, The Place, The Girl, A-2

Capitol
It's a Wonderful Life, A-2
The Verdict, B

Little
Fantasia, A-2

(Elmira)
Colonial
The Razor's Edge, A-2

Capitol
Gunning for Vengeance, A-1
Close Call for Boston Blackie, A-2
Breakfast in Hollywood, A-2
Salome Where She Danced, B
Black Beauty, A-1
That Texas Jamboree, A-1

Keeney
I've Always Loved You, A-2
Sister Kenny, A-1
Blue Skies, B
Little Miss Big, A-1

PALACE
HELD OVER 2nd BIG WEEK
TYRONE POWER
GENE TIERNEY
JOHN PAYNE
Wm. Somerset Maugham's
The Razor's Edge

TEMPLE
NOW PLAYING
NOW PLAYING
GEORGE O'BRIEN in
WINDJAMMER
Plus
GEORGE O'BRIEN
JOHN CARRADINE in
Daniel Boone

Picture Parade

The following reviews give William H. Moering's estimate of the entertainment value of new motion pictures classified as A-1 or A-2 by the Legion of Decency. ** indicates an Outstanding picture, *** Excellent, ** Good, * Fair. x Weak.**

"Till We Meet Again"

(Legion of Decency rating not yet announced).

The charm which once distinguished Deanna Durbin's films continues to elude her producers, although in this feature she is in good voice, acts with vitality and is physically as engaging as ever. Story matter is evidently deficient. This time the once popular screenplay "The Good Fairy," based on the Ferenc Molnar comedy has been adapted by Felix Jackson who produced the film. Why Mr. Jackson should expose his young star, as he does in this adaptation, to the public humiliation of being unpleasantly pursued by an elderly philanderer (Adolph Menjou) is hard to understand. Menjou mistakes the Durbin character for a young married woman and blandly proposes first to bribe her supposed husband with a job and then expedite a divorce so that he can marry her himself. That she does not at once give him marching orders tends to draw audience sympathy away from her at a time when her screen career stands in need of it. The young man (Tom Drake) with whom she is in love, also is subjected to some unnecessary ridicule because he happens to be honest. The story on the whole is a grossly materialistic one. My one compensation came through Deanna's songs which, as usual, are delightfully rendered. She sings three times, four if we count a comedy duet she gives with Walter Catlett in such an inane tale she had better have done more singing and less talking.

"Escape Me Never"

(Legion of Decency rating not yet announced).

Seeing that one brother has to carry the blame for another's wrongdoing, it might have been better if in this story the errant brother were made a little less heroic and the decent one, less of a stick. Errol Flynn is the bohemian brother who befriends the girl (Ida Lupino) and her baby by taking them into his one room studio home. Gig Young is the brother who, engaged to rich young society girl (Eleanor Parker) finds himself under false suspicion of having associated with the Lupino girl, a sort of gamin who cannot make up her mind whether she is in love with or merely accepts a man's hospitality for the sake of shelter. Based on the novel and play by Margaret Kennedy, this screenplay is by Thames Williamson and does not measure up to the previous film version produced in England some ten years back with Elisabeth Bergner starring. The characters, notably those of well-to-do people portrayed by Reginald Denny, Isobel Elsom and Eleanor Parker are most artificial and the code of morals suggested definitely belongs to Hollywood. Produced by Henry Blanke and quite well directed by Peter Godfrey it adds up to reasonably good entertainment as long as visual rather than literary standards are applied.

National Legion of Decency List

FEBRUARY 6, 1947

CLASS A-1—Unobjectionable for General Patronage

Reviewed This Week

Colorado Serenade — Days on Wheels, The — Lone Star Moonlight
Song of Scheherazade — Trail to San Antone — Wild Country

Previously Reviewed

Affairs of Geraldine
Beauty and the Bandit
Black Narcissus
Blondie's Big Moment
Blondie Knows Best
Born to Speed
Bowery Bombshell and the Law
Claudia and David
Crossed at Chapultepec
Cowboy Blues
Crime Doctor's Manhunt
Dakota
Danger Woman
Dark Mirror, The
Decoy
Dick Tracy versus Crueltall
Drifting Along
Earl Carroll Sketchbook
Fabulous Suzanne, The
Flight to Nowhere
Freddie Steps Out
Gallant Bess
Gallant Journey
Gas House Kids
Gas Blades
Gay Cavalier, The
Gentleman Joe Palooka
Ginger
Great Day
Gunman's Code
Heading West
Holiday in Mexico
Home to Oklahoma
Home Sweet Homicide
Jealous Woman, The
Jungle Captive
Lady Chaser, The
Lady Luck
Lady Ice Blade
Little Miss Big
Love Laughs at Andy Hardy
Magic Bow, The
Make Mine Music
Margie
Mighty McGurk, The
Mr. Hex
Mr. Brother Takes to Horses
Mr. Ace Frisky
North Carolina Blues
No Leave, No Love
Out California Way
Outlaw of the Plains
Over the Hill
Outlaws, The
Personality Kid
Playing Lady, The
Prairie Badman
Rainbow Over the Rockies
Red River Renegades
Return of Jesse James
Rio Grande Raiders
Rollin' Home
Roll on Texas Moon
Rustler's Roundup
Sorry, Wrong Number
Schnozzola
Sing While You Dance
Sioux Nation
Slightly Dangerous
South of Monterey
Song of the Sierras
Song of the South
Speed Reader
Stagecoach to Denver
Story of the Poor, The
Sweetheart of Sigma Chi
Terror Trail
13 Rue Madeleine
Three Little Girls at Sea
Three Wise Fools
Till the Clouds Roll By
Trail to Mexico
Trap, The
Trigger Fingers
True Glory, The
Tumbleweed Trails
Two Faced Stranger
Two Guys From Milwaukee
Two Years Before the Mast
Under Nevada Skies
Unexpected Guest
Wake Up and Dream
Wild Beauty
Wild West
Yearling, The

CLASS A-2—Unobjectionable for Adults

Reviewed This Week

Blues with Five Fingers, The — Beat the Band — Blind Spot
Dead Reckoning — Lone Wolf in Mexico, The — Secrets of a Sorority Girl

Previously Reviewed

Accompanist
Alias Mr. Twilight
Angel on My Shoulder
Bachelor's Daughters, The
Bedtime
Behind Green Lights
Below the Deadline
Betty Co-ed
Big Town
Blonde for a Day
Bowery Bombshell
Brief Encounter
Brute Man
Caesar and Cleopatra
California
Canyon Passage
Centennial Summer
Chase, The
Child of Divorce
Cloak and Dagger
Cockeyed Miracle, The
Crack Up
Criminal Court
Danger Woman
Dark Angel
Dark Mirror, The
Deception
Decoy
Dick Tracy versus Crueltall
Drifting Along
Earl Carroll Sketchbook
Fabulous Suzanne, The
Flight to Nowhere
Freddie Steps Out
Gallant Bess
Gallant Journey
Gas House Kids
Gas Blades
Gay Cavalier, The
Gentleman Joe Palooka
Ginger
Great Day
Gunman's Code
Heading West
Holiday in Mexico
Home to Oklahoma
Home Sweet Homicide
Jealous Woman, The
Jungle Captive
Lady Chaser, The
Lady Luck
Little Miss Big
Love Laughs at Andy Hardy
Magic Bow, The
Make Mine Music
Margie
Mighty McGurk, The
Mr. Hex
Mr. Brother Takes to Horses
Mr. Ace Frisky
North Carolina Blues
No Leave, No Love
Out California Way
Outlaw of the Plains
Over the Hill
Outlaws, The
Personality Kid
Playing Lady, The
Prairie Badman
Rainbow Over the Rockies
Red River Renegades
Return of Jesse James
Rio Grande Raiders
Rollin' Home
Roll on Texas Moon
Rustler's Roundup
Sorry, Wrong Number
Schnozzola
Sing While You Dance
Sioux Nation
Slightly Dangerous
South of Monterey
Song of the Sierras
Song of the South
Speed Reader
Stagecoach to Denver
Story of the Poor, The
Sweetheart of Sigma Chi
Terror Trail
13 Rue Madeleine
Three Little Girls at Sea
Three Wise Fools
Till the Clouds Roll By
Trail to Mexico
Trap, The
Trigger Fingers
True Glory, The
Tumbleweed Trails
Two Faced Stranger
Two Guys From Milwaukee
Two Years Before the Mast
Under Nevada Skies
Unexpected Guest
Wake Up and Dream
Wild Beauty
Wild West
Yearling, The
Rendezvous with Annie
Return of Monte Cristo, The
San Quentin
Son of Gray Nose
Sorrow Heart, The
Secrets of the Whistler
Shadowed
Shock
Smoky
Somewhere in the Night
Stairway to Heaven
Step By Step
So Dark the Night
Stormy Waters
Strange Journey
Stranger, The
Strange Triangle
Strange Voyage
Strange Woman, The
Some Stops Out
Swell Guy
Till the End of Time
Time of Their Life, The
Time, the Place, the Girl, The
Truth About Murder, The
Undercurrent
Unknown, The
Vacation in Reno
Waltz Time
Wanted for Murder
White Tie and Tails
Wife Wanted
Years Between, The
Young Widow

CLASS B—Objectionable in Part

Los Amores de un Torero (Objectionable suggestive dance)

Previously Reviewed

Abie's Irish Rose
Adventure in Blackmail
Apology for Murder
Humoresque
Big Sleep, The
Blue Skies
Cross My Heart
Desirable Lady
Diary of a Chambermaid
Frontier Gal
Gentleman Misbehaves, The
G. I. War Brides
Best Years of Our Lives
Man I Love, The
Man in Grey, The
Nora Prentiss
Pillow of Death
Postman Always Rings Twice, The
Open City
Queen of Burlesque
Saratoga Trunk
Searching Wind, The
Seventh Veil, The
Kitty
Lady Luck
Love on the Dole
My Ava
Never Say Goodbye
Notorious Gentleman
Shadow of a Woman
Tangier
Temptation
That Night with You
They Were Sisters
Thrill of Brazil
Traffic in Crime
Tomahk and Every Night
Verdict, The
Wallinger's Daughter, The
Whistle Stop
Wicked Lady, The

CLASS C—Condemned

Previously Reviewed

Carmen
Confession of a Vice Baron
Child Bride
Carnival in Flanders
Dust to Dust
Erotica
No Greater Sin
Outlaw, The
Pastor Hall
Pepe le Moko
Reefer Madness
Souls in Pawn
Stolen Paradise
Tentación (Spanish)

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