

The Silent Drama



Lewis Stone in 'Pilgrims of the Night' at the Columbia



Scene from 'Your Best Friend' with Vera Gordon at the Rivoli



Priscilla Dean in 'Wild Honey' at the Circle

BY HAMILTON WAYNE. At the present time the motion picture officials are arranging their plans for the fall "shootings." And soon there will be also the inevitable deluge of aspiring stars, both male and female, but chiefly the latter, who will be flocking to the studios in person or beseeching the casting directors with descriptive applications.

Two art bugs are rampant. One is the never-to-be-conquered writing bug and the other is the acting bug. The latter is markedly of the screen variety. It might be advisable to suggest that those bitten by the screen bug should make a movie screen test of themselves at home.

The rage these days is types. Every now and then there is a character or type part for which some particular individual appears to be manufactured by nature. But playing one of those parts this year, and another one perhaps next year, is not in any sense a rosy career.

So far as qualifications for straight leading parts are concerned there are some simple general tests that any young man or young woman may apply to himself or herself at home before knocking at the doors of a studio.

There are exceptions, of course, but the primary requisites are: For men, height about 5 feet 10 inches; for women, not over 5 feet 5. So far as weight is concerned, slenderness is a big asset, as the screen has a tendency to make people look more plump than they are in reality. And it is extremely important for women to have shapely ankles and wrists. Also they must be able to walk gracefully. That is not as easy as it sounds. Many who thought they had a graceful stride received a rude jolt when they saw themselves lumbering along on the silver sheet. The camera is relentless.

Features should be regular well shaped, a round face with no prominent bow structure is best. Eyes are tremendously important. Very light blue or gray eyes are an almost unsurmountable barrier to success on the screen. Dark eyes should be widely spaced. And, strangely enough, a good complexion is a big asset. It is vitally essential to have good teeth. Some people have fine-looking teeth, but they do not know whether or not they are what the cameramen call transparent teeth. Such teeth in a close-up appear as though the individual had no teeth at all.

Beautiful hair is always worth while, but the color of it has no bearing upon screen success. Red and black hair both photograph black. Blonde hair is good for ingenuities, although both stage and screen are running heavily to brunettes these days.

It is taken for granted that the profile and full face are good. It will take an enormous amount of ability to succeed with a poor profile. And personality is the greatest asset of all. Looks plus personality and intelligence constitute the compelling combination.

Of course, the real camera test is the final test; but if one does not measure up to the specifications mentioned they might as well transplant their hopes to other artistic soil.

Age? O yes! The absolute deadline is 25.

Clarke W. Thomas, Ince general manager who has been in New York for several weeks attending conferences with Thomas H. Ince and distributors, will return to the studios this week to begin work on the season's producing schedule.

It has been a conceded point for several years that Mary Pickford knows considerable about casting a motion picture. Even the most critical fall to find the slightest flaws in her selection of the members of her various supporting companies. Now in her new "Best of the Storm Country" she has done the very unusual of surrounding herself with a rather remarkable cast of veterans of the histrionic art, four of whom have been in their profession more than 25 years and two of whom have been active nearly half a century.

That Nazimova's production of "Salome" will not encounter censorship rebuke throughout the United States is forecast in the verdict rendered by the national board of review, which has "passed" the picture and has given it enthusiastic endorsement. Following the official showing to the members of the board in New York, a quasi-public presentation before a distinguished audience was given, at which Mme. Nazimova and her husband and director, Charles Bryant, were assisted in their duties as hosts by members of the board of review, who agreed on the verdict that "Salome" is one of the best pictures that has ever been brought before us.

The proverbial bed of roses is a hard and lumpy couch compared with the ease and facility with which Claire Windsor, the screen star, has emerged from the obscurity of a maid's role to the leading feminine part in "Rich Man's Wives." The B. P. Schulberg special production in which she shares the acting honors with House Peters.

Miss Windsor has been engaged in motion picture work for a brief three years, and during that period she has never been without an enthralling role. Her screen career is encouraging to young girls, who like her, are blessed with an uncommon amount of good looks, a determination to succeed and an inherent talent for acting.

Louis B. Mayer has engaged Edith Roberts and Cleo Madison for prominent roles in the all-star cast of "The Dangerous Age," John M. Stahl's new production for First National release. In addition to these newly signed celebrities, the cast list for this picture now includes Lewis Stone, Ruth Clifford, Myrtle Stedman and Richard Tucker and there are two more star parts still to be filled.

Reginald Barker has returned to the Mayer studio after a short siege of illness due to exposure while hunting locations in the Big Bear valley district. The casting of "Timber," his first all-star picture for Louis B. Mayer, was resumed immediately upon his return with a view of getting the shooting of the production started at the earliest possible moment.

Jackie Coogan will not pack his little grip and invade Europe as soon as was expected. This information comes from Jack Coogan, Sr., father of the famous starlet. It was the intention of Mr. Coogan to take Jackie to England after the filming of "Oliver Twist" was completed, but arrangements have been made between the elder Coogan and Sol Lesser whereby another feature and per chance two will be filmed in Los Angeles prior to the departure of Jackie for foreign shores.

"Did you ever hear an Indian sing and would you call it music?" That's what Werner Jensen wants to know these days that he is spending in a projection room in New York preparing a score for

"The Half Breed," which will mark Oliver Morosoco's screen debut as an independent producer. Jensen, who is coming into quick fame in the east because of his highly tuneful music in Charlotte Greenwood's new success, "Lettie Pepper," has been set to the task of providing a swinging score for "The Half Breed."

Coincident with First National's release of the John M. Stahl production, "One Clear Call," the director started work on "The Dangerous Age," his next picture for Louis B. Mayer presentation. The story of this latter is an original by Frances Irene Reels, and was prepared for the screen by J. G. Hawks and Bess Meredith. Lewis Stone and Ruth Clifford have been engaged to head the all-star cast.

Bryant Washburn heads the list of the supporting company that will be seen with Katherine MacDonald in the production of "White Shoulders," filmed under the direction of Tom Forman.

Washburn's acting of the chief male part in "The Woman Conquerors," Miss MacDonald's recently completed offering, was so eminently satisfactory that B. P. Schulberg, president of the organization, readily selected him to portray the principal role in "White Shoulders."

Allen Holubar has completed cutting "Hurricane's Gal," and in the meantime, pretty Dorothy Phillips, who starred in that thrilling melodrama of the sea, is passing her "between pictures" replenishing her wardrobe for her next production.

Walter Anthony, music critic, dramatic writer and press representative de-luxe, has been added to the staff of the Jackie Coogan production. Mr. Anthony will devote his time in the scenario department and will act in a general advisory capacity insofar as the Coogan pictures are concerned.

Not content to use stock film to supply effects for his latest picture, "The Dangerous Age," John M. Stahl last week staged a spectacular horse race at Exposition park just to get several good grandstand, paddock and track scenes for use in the production. Several thousand racing enthusiasts were on hand to cheer wildly as the camera focused on Lewis Stone, Ruth Clifford and Myrtle Stedman as they stood at the railing of their box and checked off their horses as they thundered past the judges' stand.

From being the first leading woman to play opposite Richard Barthelmess to a minor part in his forthcoming production which is being filmed under the tentative title of "The Bondboy" is the fate of Maida Harries. However, she is proud, she says, to be in his company, because this is her first appearance on the screen and she says that her ambition is again to be the leading woman for the handsome Dick. Miss Harries is the young screen star's cousin.

Hanson cabs, queer looking derby hats cobblestone streets, gas lights on the street corners, a horse car, Chinese wearing queues, women wearing basques and small bustles, small boys with funny long trousers, or still funnier short ones—all these are going to carry many memories back on the wings of memory when Paramount's "The Old Homestead" is seen on the screen.

George Melford expects to begin his new Paramount production, "Ebb Tide," soon. This is a screen version of Robert Louis Stevenson's famous novel, Lila Lee, James Kirkwood, Raymond Hatton, George Pawcett, Noah Beery, Jacqueline Logan and others will appear. The scenario is by Lorna Moon.

When Constance Binney returns to America it is extremely probable that she will have with her the manuscript of a new play by Clemence Dane, the author of "A Bill of Divorcement," in which Miss Bin-

ney is starring at the Ideal Film company's studios near London, Eng. The new drama will be used by the young star as her theatrical vehicle for the coming season, and Mrs. Dane is said to be writing it with the ultimate idea of a motion picture production in mind, after the play has become established on the boards.

"Hands across the sea" becomes paraphrased into "Hearts across the sea" by an episode in the career of Richard Barthelmess. He has been elected the favorite motion picture hero by Godwin girls' college, Cliftonville, Margate, Kent, England.

George Fitzmaurice has finished work on the old-time man-of-war in his Paramount production, "To Have and to Hold," and the vessel, which was rebuilt for this purpose, has again been reconstructed and now appears as a pirate ship. The company, in which Betty Compton and Bert Lytell are featured, with Theodore Kosloff in a heavy role, is depicting the pirate scenes at Balboa, Cal.

Al Christie, supervising director of Educational-Christie comedies, is back from Europe, where he spent several weeks vacationing, and is already on his way to Los Angeles, where he will begin work within a few days on his first personally directed picture of the new Christie comedy series. This picture is to be called "Let 'er Run," and will feature Dorothy Devore in a horse-racing story.

Fred Jackman's first directorial effort for Mack Sennett is proving a "knockout"—to use the one fitting expression. With such popular artists as Louise Fazenda, and little John Henry Jr., to say nothing of the presence of Teddy, the Sennett wonder dog, it is a certainty that Jackman has real star material with which to work. The story, a rural comedy, is of that wholesome variety sure to please the vast ma-

trios. The title of this new Sennett comedy is "Bow Wow."

Rollcall on "Snub" Pollard's set the other day at the Hal E. Roach studios, where the comedian is coaching a theatrical comedy "jazzing" the conventional conception of Hollywood in the east, brought forth a response of so many brilliant names in the film industry that on-lookers were dizzy. It would not do to tell who are among those present in the impersonations, but a well-known name belonging to a writer for the screen not being called elucidated comment.

The tale of three cities—that is what the latest Normie Talmadge vehicle, "The Voice From the Minaret," is to be. Just as there are three cities in which they are to express themselves, and the fairy who always granted a wish to the good little girl of nursery rhymes could hardly have done better by Miss Talmadge than to choose such cities as Bombay, Damascus and London in which to play her dramatic role of Lady Adrienne.

Brenda Fowler, who plays one of the chief roles in "Money, Money, Money," in which Katherine MacDonald is featured, is a graduate of the stage who had a fond farewell to the footlights when she discovered she possessed a prolific faculty for fashioning one-act plays for vaudeville. When she firmly established the fact that this type of literature was more remunerative than playing "heavies," she made up her mind to forget acting for good and all.

To play the heavy in Richard Barthelmess' forthcoming production, which is tentatively called "The Bondboy," Charles Hill Mailes had to grow a beard. He is very proud of this chin appendage and dressed it up to go to church. Mr. Barthelmess met him and complimented him on his appearance.

"Charlie, you look so good with the beard that you ought to keep it on," suggested Mr. Barthelmess.

"No," decidedly answered Mailes. "You see, I am going back to the coast and if I kept the beard on I would lose my identity. Out there the director just telephones down in this wise, 'Send up six whiskers.'"

Pat O'Malley, who will be seen next in "Brothers Under the Skin," a Goldwyn picture, says he has invented a speedometer which will register miles instead of speed. When the auto reaches 25 miles an hour the new speedometer will register limit; 35 miles, \$25 fine; 50 miles, \$50 fine; 60 miles, 30 days in jail. Pat says his device will save a lot of mental calculation.

How passengers on an ocean liner amuse themselves with sports and athletic games on deck is shown in an episode of "On the High Seas," now being produced for Paramount by Irving V. Willat. Dorothy Dalton and Jack Holt have the featured roles, supported by Mitchell Lewis.

Antonio Moreno, who is featured with Colleen Moore in "The Bitterness of Sweet," Rupert Hughes' latest Goldwyn photoplay, made his stage debut in "Two Women," a play by Mr. Hughes starring Mrs. Leslie Carter.

Claire Windsor, who is playing at the Goldwyn studios in "Broken Chains," the \$10,000 prize scenario by Irving V. Willat. Dorothy Dalton made her first appearance as an extra.

Louise Backus Seger, regarded as one of the best-character women on the screen, who won fame in "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch,"

Philo McCullough, Jack Richardson and Robert Agnew are also in the cast. "A Dangerous Adventure," which is being filmed under the tentative title of "The Bondboy."

Playing prominent parts in nine different productions, and winning an exceptionally strong place among motion picture fans in 18 months, is the achievement of Madge Bellamy, who has been engaged to play the leading feminine role in Jack Pickford's first independent production for Allied Corporation, "Garrison's Finish." Few screen workers have covered so much ground or have gained such public prominence in so short a time.

It was necessary to divide the "To Have and to Hold" company recently in order to take a number of scenes at Big Bear valley, California, while a few of the people remained at Balboa to finish work on this new Paramount picture. Guido Bergere adapted this Mary Johnston novel, which in its film form will feature Betty Compton and Bert Lytell, with Theodore Kosloff playing the heavy role.

Charles Ray keeps in condition at his studio by exercise at volleyball. There is a court with nets, and the studio team consists of the star, his brother Al, his father Charles T. Kidder Jr., and his company manager, Richard Willis. There is daily a half hour's play during the noon lull from filming "A Tailor-Made Man," his first United Artists' release.

William Fox believes he has found the making of a film screen actress in Kay Hammond, a beautiful young woman who was taken from a Los Angeles stock company and made leading woman with Dustin Farnum in his next picture.

Miss Hammond is going to get her chance, and although she has had no screen experience, she has shown considerable ability on the stage.

Virginia Valli has been engaged for the role of the young daughter in the William Fox special, "Kentucky Days," now in course of production at the Fox Hollywood studio. Miss Valli has been a leading woman and featured player.

"The Glorious Adventure," the first super-feature film made entirely in color, is to have its general release.

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Monroe Salisbury in 'The Great Alone' at the Metastatic

TODAY'S FILM FEATURES.

- Liberty—Mary Miles Minter, "South of Suva." Buster Keaton also on same bill.
Majestic—Monroe Salisbury, "The Great Alone."
Rivoli—Vera Gordon, "Your Best Friend."
Columbia—Lewis Stone, "Pilgrims of the Night."
Hippodrome—Viola Dana, "They Like 'Em Rough."
Circle—Priscilla Dean, "Wild Honey."

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