

Inside TV

Fine Cast Turns In A Charming 'Eloise'

By EYE STARR
HOLLYWOOD, Nov. 29—STARR REPORT: Not being particularly disposed toward "cute" little girls on TV, least of all when they take the lead in a show built around such an impossible character as Kay Thompson's *Eloise*, age 6, I figured I could take a night off last Thursday and maybe read a book or something.
 But then the phone rang and a meddling friend said I simply MUST watch "Eloise." So I watched "Eloise." Or at least the last hour of it. Now I wish I'd seen the whole thing. The meddling friend was right. "Eloise" was one of those rare ideas that comes off on the air the way it was planned to come off on paper.
 What made the show was the usual combination of elements—an excellent script by Leonard Spigelgass, superb direction by young John Frankenheimer and a series of sure-footed performances by such eminent people as Mildred Natwick, Louis Jourdan, Monty Woolley, Kay Thompson, Hans Conried and an incredibly believable *Eloise* in the person of 7-year-old, semi-toothless Evelyn Rudie.
 I still don't like "cute" little girls on television, but I am going to have to make an exception in the case of Miss Rudie. She was the epitome of everything people don't like in 6-year-old little girls and she made you like her in spite of yourself. Which, when you come right down to it, is the most charming aspect of every 6-year-old.
 Oh, yes—Conrad Hilton, the hotel man, was in for a brief two lines playing himself. Mr. Hilton, an excellent hotel man, is no actor.

that a 21-year-old guitar-strumming grimeacer out of Tennessee should now command that kind of money is enough to give Fox and every other studio in town a major case of the heebie jeebies. As for the Actors Studio, that little band of dedicated thespians is considering a mass suicide pact.
SHORT SHOTS: Jack Benny's next film for GE Theater, "A Good and Faithful Servant," is being shot this week. It's scheduled for telecasting in March... The Dec. 27 "Climax," "The Outcast," has lined up a right powerful trio of players for itself—Dewey Martin, Susan Kohner and Neville Brand.
 The serious side of Red Skelton comes to light in a planned TV film series, "Almost Divorced," which he will produce but not star in. It will be based on case histories of people who have "almost divorced."
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'You Asked for It' Producers Tour Europe

By CHARLES MERCER
NEW YORK, Nov. 24 (AP)— Groups of strolling television players and camera crews often go to Europe to film this and that sequence for this and that program. When they return, they are strangely silent about their travels.
 Now the silence is broken by the co-producer of "You Asked for It." They try to give you whatever scenes and situations you've asked for. But Art Baker and co-producer Cran Chamberlain and their cameramen did not exactly ask for all that befell them in European countries.
 Without straining international relations, it appears safe to publish a judiciously phrased statement from Chamberlain, who emphasizes that he likes everybody everywhere:
Finds Europeans Slow
 "In general Europeans simply have no conception of the fast time elements involved in American television production. They move at so leisurely a pace that they're calculated to give an American TV producer ulcers."
 In England he and Baker found some exceptions to the general rule. "An Englishman," he says, "is a man who automatically says it cannot be done and then knocks himself out to get it done."
 Thus, in England the "You Asked for It" crew managed pretty well to get what they asked for — such as a night walk with one of the last lamp-lighters in London and a daredevil act called "The Three Angels."
French Enthusiasm
 Then to France where, says Chamberlain, "nobody cares if you live or die." But he likes the French. "Their enthusiasm is great. They give overwhelming performances. The only thing that stops a Frenchman is his two-hour lunch period."
 Despite two-hour lunch periods the crew filmed such events as Baker climbing the Eiffel Tower, a portrait of a one-armed blind sculptor, the making of perfume, and several thrill acts.
 Next stop was Switzerland — and stop it was at the border. The camera crews found that the French customs officers qualified to check through their equipment had taken the weekend off. So they lost two more precious days until the customs officers returned from their days off.
Swiss Bell Farmer
 One thing Baker and the crew sought in Switzerland was to film a Swiss bell-ringer. "But there are no Swiss bell-ringers as we know them here," Chamberlain said, crestfallen. "There are just some farmers who climb around the mountains ringing two bells so their cows will know where they are. Here, of course, we bell the cow. But there they bell the farmer."
 But the company did obtain some fascinating films in Switzerland. Among them was one of mechanical dolls 250 years old which write, draw pictures and play music instruments. By some magic their owner re-designed the mechanism so that one could write "You Asked for It."
 Then Italy — and chaos. For some reason still a mystery to the company, Chamberlain said, the Italians impounded their equipment and they were frozen for a week. He speaks of that week emotionally, for he and Baker still don't know what happened.
 Those Italian scenes and situations you asked for will not be seen on television. You may have asked for it, but you were simply asking too much.

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Considerate Thief Sought

KLAMATH FALLS, Nov. 28 (AP)— City police are investigating reports of a "considerate" burglar working in the Klamath Falls area.
 Detective Phillips and Don Tribur reported they were recently occupying separate rooms at a local hotel. While they were sleeping, a soft-footed visitor entered both of the unlocked rooms, making away with \$90 from Phillips' wallet and \$30 from Tribur's wallet.
 However, the unidentified ransacker left \$10 in each man's wallet.
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Morse Dates Speech

PORTLAND, Nov. 29 (AP)— Sen. Morse (D-Ore) will speak at the annual meeting of the National Hells Canyon Assn. at the Oregon State Grange headquarters here Saturday.

REAL DRAWING CARD

BITONTO, Italy, Nov. 29 (AP)— Local merchants wanted to draw more customers to this southern Italian city. Movie houses went all out. They cut admissions to six cents — and for a double feature too.

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