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Gia Scala



Giorgia Moll



Kay Kendall



Marianne Cook



Maria Schell



Felicia Farr



Susan Harrison



Dolores Michaels



Natalie Wood



James MacArthur

Best Bets for Stardom

Picking winners in the Hollywood

sweepstakes is tough, but here's how experts handicap

the current crop of screen hopefuls.

WHERE DO RACE track touts go when they're too old to outrace the cops at Santa Anita and Hialeah? Well, often they become publicity agents for Hollywood's young movie hopefuls!

"I got a sure one comin' up," they whisper in the ear of a Hollywood producer, director, or correspondent. "This filly—er, this starlet's got the looks of Liz Taylor, the sex appeal of those Italian dolls, and the talent of Bette Davis. And for an old friend like you, I got an exclusive deal."

So you may read in your newspaper about Roxie Furburster, a girl going places. But when tomorrow arrives, the only place Roxie has gone is to the unemployment-compensation office. The tout, of course, has long since found a new "sure thing."

Yet it's not impossible to guess winners in the Hollywood sweepstakes. Just watch

the stable owners—in this case, the studio bosses and independent producers. They are putting their money on a talented group of young people who accentuate "earthiness," realism, and personality rather than beauty, and for every male star-of-tomorrow there are two promising females.

Betting is heavy, for example, on the success of our cover girl, Gia Scala. She's impressive both in size—five feet, eight inches—and background. Born in Liverpool, England, of Irish-Italian parents, she was raised in Rome and scored in Universal-International's "Four Girls in Town" and Columbia's "The Garment Jungle." You can judge her possibilities for yourself in her coming MGM films, "Tip on a Dead Jockey" and "Don't Go Near the Water."

Italian beauty, Hollywood believes, can't be overstressed,

so they've added still another hopeful, 19-year-old Giorgia Moll. You'll see her opposite Audie Murphy in "The Quiet American."

Other imports are England's Kay Kendall, one of MGM's "Les Girls," and Germany's Marianne Cook, soon to be seen in UI's "Interlude." Switzerland gets into the act with Maria Schell, who landed the role in "The Brothers Karamazov" that Marilyn Monroe wanted so dearly. At the moment, Inger Stevens is best known for her "romance" with Bing Crosby, but experts feel the public will make her a star after seeing her opposite Bing in the MGM release, "Man on Fire."

For the American girl with Hollywood dreams, modeling seems to be the "open sesame." Five of today's best bets are former models. Suzy Parker plays opposite Cary Grant in 20th Century-Fox's "Kiss Them for Me"; 15-

year-old Sandra Dee appears in MGM's "Until They Sail"; Felicia Farr bows in Columbia's "3 10 to Yuma"; 18-year-old Susan Harrison has the top female role opposite Burt Lancaster and Tony Curtis in "Sweet Smell of Success"; and Dolores Michaels, impressive in "The Wayward Bus," plays opposite Richard Widmark in the forthcoming "Time Limit."

The most promising "new-comer," however, is a film veteran. Nineteen-year-old Natalie Wood debuted at age four when director Irving Pichel hired some townfolk in Santa Rosa, Calif., as bit players in "Happy Land." Now she's got the title role in "Marjorie Morningstar."

Male prospects are relatively few, but impressive. Outstanding is 19-year-old James MacArthur, son of Helen Hayes and the late Charles MacArthur. His sensitive performance in "The Young