

Topsy-Turvy Hollywood Tries Many Innovations As Period Of Deflation Hits Industry

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HOLLYWOOD.

Topsy-turvy Hollywood went through another surprising series of upsets and innovations during 1932; more changes than have been recorded since the birth of talking pictures. There were more new faces on the screen than in any previous year. More actors and actresses climbed to stardom. Five distinctive types of films started their inevitable cycles. Although only one film producer went to the wall, the Christie company, others actually were reeled with bankruptcy. A frank admission by J. L. Warner, head of Warner Brothers, that "unless we cut expenses 50 per cent, we will face bankruptcy" precipitated a house cleaning in almost every studio ranging from salary cut for contract players to five-day weeks for the organized crafts.

Surprising Climbs
The most surprising climb of the year was registered by R-K-O Pathé studios. Radio pictures picked up many well publicized players when their contracts with other companies expired, and made a strenuous drive to the front. (Radio broadcasts weekly which featured "radio" plays, aided the rapid climb to popularity.)

Turning to the films themselves, the distinct cycles developed during the year. They were divided roughly to:

One—Outdoor or adventure pictures—"Bring 'em Back Alive," "Tarzan," "Congo," "King of the Jungle," "Igloo," etc.
Two—Horror pictures—"The Old Dark House," "Frankenstein," "Freaks," "The Mummy," "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," "Chandu," etc.
Three—Columbian pictures—"What Price Hollywood?" "Make Me a Star," "Once in a Lifetime."
Four—Political pictures—"The Phantom President," "The Dark Horse," "Washington Masquerade," "Washington Merry-Go-Round."

New Stars
New stars? There are lots of them. In the industry, mean those rising role players who have gained the billing over the picture, and star-rogation by the public.

They were Paul Muni, Lee Tracy, Joan Harlow, Jimmy Durante, Wynne Owen, Miriam Hopkins, Joan Blondell, Sidney Fox and Boris Karloff. New personalities, who made hits during the year were Charles Laughton, Herbert Marshall, Miriam Jordan, Karen Morley, Robert Young, Dick Powell, Gloria Stuart, Carey Grant, Linda Farrell, Eric Linden, Aline Marshall, Tom Brown, Mae West, Katharine Hepburn, George Brent, Betty Davis, Ann Dvorak, George O'Brien, Johnny Weissmuller, Helen Hayes, Onslow Stevens, Lydia Roberts and Warren William.

Several of the "old timers" were unchained on the comeback trail. They included Clara Bow, Alice White, Betty Arbuckle, Lila Lee, Betty Hampton, Babe Daniels, Tom Mix and Vera Kennedy.

Star Bank Rolls
A few incidents:
Closing of the First National bank in Beverly Hills severely handicapped any motion picture stars who deposited their weekly checks there. It was widely rumored that the bank had its doors after Greta Garbo suddenly withdrew more than \$300,000, leaving it without available cash.

John Gilbert and Ina Claire are two who had large trust funds in the bank, and they were forced to court to get their funds out. Others found their savings and draw-

ing deposits completely tied up since last June.
Radio stars made their first appearance in motion pictures during the past year. That is, as stars in their own right. They included Kate Smith, Bing Crosby, Donald Novis, Ken Murray and many others. "The Big Broadcast" apparently has started a new cycle of films written around the broadcasting studios.

Studio Co-operation
Studios forgot their "dog-eat-dog" attitude during the year, and with increasing frequency loaned their contract players to each other. Although the borrowing studios without exception paid the studios more than the lenders were paying the players themselves, the feeling developed that it was better to have a star working for a rival than to continue paying for no work at all.

Perhaps the most outstanding picture of the year was "Grand Hotel," a German rival, "Mädchen in Uniform" came to America late in the year to receive the unanimous praise of critics.

Other outstanding pictures of the year were "The Champ," "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," "The Sign of the Cross," "The Guardsman," "A Farewell to Arms," "Shanghai Express," "One Hour With You," "Love Me Tonight," "Arrowsmith," "Cyrano," "Trouble in Paradise," "Blessed Event," "Once in a Lifetime," "Washington Masquerade," and "I Am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang."

Chinese Look Back Upon Year Full of Tragedy, Turmoil

By MORRIS J. HARRIS
SHANGHAI, (AP).—As 1933 nears China looks back upon a year of tragedy and turmoil, but finds herself with the gravest of her international and domestic problems unsolved.

Leaders refuse to hazard a guess as to what the New Year will bring to this sick giant of Asia, but all profess confidence that in the end—meaning few years or many—the big world problems now centering in eastern Asia will be settled and, for the great part, according to the dictates of China.

Japan's military occupation of Manchuria and institution of the protected state of Manchukuo constituted the greatest foreign threat to China since the disastrous Sino-Japanese war in the closing years of the previous century.

As 1932 passes, Manchurian volunteers continue to harass the island empire's officials. The coming year promises to be one of chaos there even while the League of Nations tries to settle the problem.

In memory, too, exists the assault which Japan launched upon Shanghai late last January. For six weeks an army of more than 50,000, backed by a naval armada, was held at bay by the Chinese nineteenth route army. Eventually there was a truce.

What was gained remains a matter of opinion. Japan says she broke the Chinese boycott. China declares she showed the world that her soldiers on defense were equal to those of any other nation.

The principal results were huge losses of lives and property. But Shanghai has traveled a long way along the comeback road and today, under increased tariffs, is the source of a river of revenue for the Nanking regime.

Domestically the unity of China continues more of a theory than a fact. The powerful clique in control of Canton maintains only a nominal allegiance to Nanking.

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