

A Star by Surprise

by Peer J. Oppenheimer

HOLLYWOOD wisecracs, who claim that anyone can explain a flop but no one can explain a hit, found a new argument in "Band of Angels," the recent Clark Gable starrer.

Enthusiastic teen-agers ignored King Gable and made a hit of a supporting player, Efrem Zimbalist, Jr. It took everyone by surprise, including Efrem. As if his name weren't handicap enough, Zimbalist has several more drawbacks as a dreamboat: he's 34, married, father of three children, and the son of a famous concert violinist. But the bobby-soxers' squeals were real, so the Warner Brothers—no logicians they!—promptly cast him for the lead opposite Natalie Wood in "Bombers B-52." He no sooner finished that than he started work in "The Deep Six," and he's been busy ever since. As the wisecracs would say, "When you've got a hit, who needs an explanation?"

1. Zimbalists don't deny enjoying Hollywood—and their new home.
2. And what's a Hollywood home without the patter of a gibbon ape?
3. Latest of Zimbalist's three children is still unawed by Dad's success.



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