



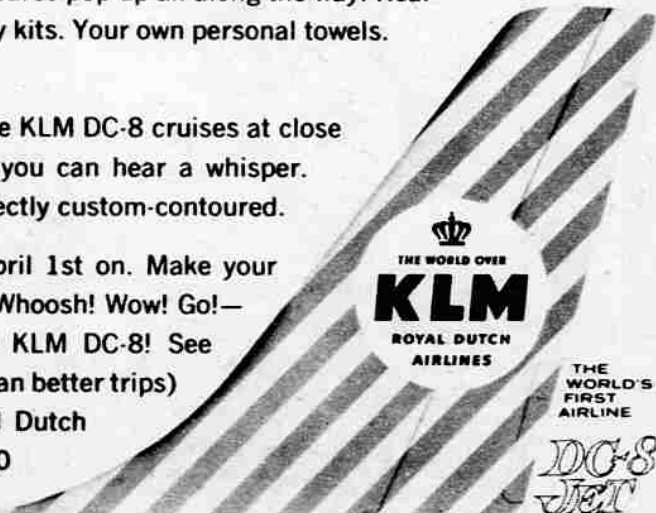
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MOVIES

Jimmy Darren and Evy Norlund:

A Hollywood Marriage with a Chance?

They've succeeded in everything else in their young lives; filmdom hopes their luck extends to marriage

By ROBERT EDWARDS



IT'S NO SECRET that, for various reasons, many Hollywood marriages have two strikes against them from the start. The Debbie Reynolds-Eddie Fisher breakup last year is a good example. So, understandably, Hollywood insiders view such ballyhooed unions with cynicism.

Yet in the case of Jimmy Darren, at 23 a veteran of eight movies, and 21-year-old Evy Norlund, his actress-bride of six weeks, these same insiders are wagering that they'll prove a happy exception to the rule.

Jimmy, who won teen-age adulation in "Gidget," and Evy, a former Miss Denmark, went into their marriage "with our eyes wide open" and feel that they'll be more than able to cope with its built-in problems, including those long, dangerous separations for picture-making.

"If making a picture means a separation for as long as, let's say, six months," Jimmy promises, "I won't do it."

This isn't the first marriage for Jimmy. The first one was, he says, "a mistake."

"This marriage is going to stick," he vows. "I'm Catholic, and we were married in the Church. I was married hastily by a justice of the peace the first time. Evy's something special. She's not a Catholic, but she took instructions on mixed marriages from the priest who married us at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. Sure, we could have gotten married 'over the desk' by a JP. It would have been much easier. But, aside from my religious feelings, that's not the way you want to do things with a wonderful girl like Evy. I wanted her to be a bride with all the trimmings that go with it."

The first meeting of Jimmy and Evy two years ago in the office of an executive for Columbia Pictures was hardly auspicious. "Jimmy was pretty well established," Evy recalls, "and they wanted him to pose with me for some publicity pictures. He was in a rather bad mood and wouldn't agree then, although he did later."

"I guess we both forgot about each other until we met at a studio drama class. I had to talk about my life in general that day, and I was nervous in front of all those