MONROE SMILES—Actress Marilyn Monroe, who has announced she has separated from her third husband, playwright Arthur Miller, is shown in four "Monroe" smile poses. The glamourous star, now 34, for years has been Hollywood's "sex symbol." (UPI Telephoto)

Marilyn Monroe Learned How To Move at Modeling School

By ROBERT LILES
UPI Correspondent

Marilyn Monroe became a photographer's model at 19 and her 36-24-25 curves went into the "cheescake" mill like letters through a post office.

It was at modeling school that she learned to make every move count. And this training later made her anatomy the symbol of desirability to a generation of men.

The girl who first walked into a model agency in 1945 with the fresh, pretty face and the body of a Venus had an air of innocence that kept vulgarity from her poses.

Sense of Great Fun

If men want to look, I don't mind, she seemed to say. It all had a sense of great fun, and she liked to be admired. It also was the way she earned her living.

This need for the admiration of men–all men–probably played as much a part in her three marriage failures as any factor. Her husbands–James Dougherty, the boy next door; All-American baseball great, Joe DiMaggio; and playwright Arthur Miller–were all known to have clenched their jaws while others ogled.

The marriage to Miller ended recently at the height of Marilyn Monroe's career as a Hollywood actress.

Marilyn, who grew up as Norma Jean Baker, had married Jim Dougherty to escape the foster homes in which she had been shunted back and forth, and to find the deep love she had missed.

Was Before Camera

She divorced him in Reno in 1946 soon after she had become established as a photographer's model. Even then, the seeds of ambition to become a movie star were beginning to germinate. Norma Jean was before a camera and she made the most of it.

At 20, she had a screen test at 20th Century-Fox and took the name Marilyn Monroe. Modeling was interspersed with bit parts. She was hungry some times, but industrious about her work.

The famous nude portrait happened during a hungry period of 1949. She needed the $50 to keep going while she wiggled her way to the top of the Hollywood ladder.

The calendar-art shot didn't make her famous. It became a collector's item only after she became the sex symbol of the 1950s.

"I'm not ashamed of it. I've done nothing wrong," she said of the picture later.

Chose High, Hard Road

She pushed away the Hollywood wolves who offered instant stardom as bait for their chase. Choosing the high, hard road, she concentrated on studying to be an actress at the actors' lab. There she first made contact with the New York intellectuals who were to lead her to Arthur Miller.

But her knowledge of how to appear before a camera, to move with every inch of her being, paid off quicker than the Stanislavski theory of acting as taught at the actors' lab.

In 1950, she appeared in a short sequence in John Huston's "The Asphalt Jungle." The wolf whistles and howls for her in every theater the movie played brought an immense response.

Big parts did not come quickly for the now platinum blonde whose clothes on and off the screen seemed molded to her body. Her popularity zoomed through studio poses sent to the troops during the Korean War and the publicity shots printed in newspapers and magazines.

Acting Ability Improved

The tide of demand rolled over studio fears that she couldn't act. And in fact her acting ability improved. Oddly, the femme fatale came across the screen with the same sense of humor that kept her early poses from vulgarity. Just good clean fun – but oh, boy!

In 1950 she had a brief romantic interlude with a musical director who, some said, was her first real love.

She ended the affair because she felt the man really thought she was vulgar.

She refused to marry an agent and mentor who wanted to leave her a million dollars because she didn't love him. The Norma Jean behind Marilyn Monroe thought a lot of real love, and she was lonely.

Feared Career Clash

She met Joe Dimaggio in 1952 and they became friends. He wanted to marry her. But they put it off. She wondered if their two careers – his fame and her involvement with movies – would clash.

They were married in 1954 during a fued with her studio over roles and money. She began cooking spaghetti in a $750-a-month bungalow with a swimming pool in Beverly Hills.

Then she made peace with her studio; Joe watched television and played golf.

Their lives didn't mesh. Just nine months after they were married, they decided to call it quits.

"We had nothing to say to each other," she explained.

Electric Organs Are Popular This Holiday

Christmas carols this holiday season will be sung in many homes around brand-new electric organs, placed unde the Christmas tree by a thoughtful "Santa."

Many of the new electric organs are so easy to play that they are a welcome gift for all members of the family –from youngsters to oldsters.

The new organs also are within the price range of a budget-minded Santa and are handsomely styled, to complement any decor.

Most popular new organs utilize a built-in, self-teaching playing system that nearly anyone of any age can master in minutes. Chords are lettered and keys are numbered so that the beginner has no difficulty in following the music in the specially prepared books.

With a little parental guidance and the aid of "music by numbers," even first-graders can pick out a tune on one of the many new portable electric chord organs.

America's Favorite Christmas Bloom Is Brilliant Poinsettia

America's favorite Christmas bloom is the brilliant poinsettia. The scarlet blooms, which have become the very symbol of the Yule season, ranked number one in a recent survey by Florists' Telegraph Delivery association to discover the most popular Christmas floral decorations.

Named for Joel R. Poinsett of South Carolina, the magnificent plant is surrounded by legend.

One describes a poor child who wished to give a gift to the Virgin and was heartbroken because she had nothing of value or beauty to present. As she approached the Mother of Jesus, in desperation she plucked some of the scrawny flowers at her feet. As she did so, the flowers were transfigured into the scarlet brilliance of the poinsettia.

When someone wires you an arrangement of greens and holly, you may take pleasure in reflecting that the wreath still means, as it did in Roman days, that good wishes and esteem are entwined in the leaves.

Universal Herald

Holly, which has grown in America for hundreds of years, is considered a universal herald of the holidays.

When you send blooms for Christmas, consider a flowering plant. Gaining in seasonal popularity during the last few years, according to the FTD survey, are azaleas, Christmas begonias, kalenchoe, cyclamen, and pepper plants (also called cherry plants). These blooms add to the festive air and endure beyond the holidays to brighten any room in the home.

In cut flower arrangements for the Yuletide holidays, there is little doubt that the leader in the dazzling array of red blooms is the Happiness Rose.

The survey also reveals that red and white carnations and vari-colored chrysanthemums are great American favorites

Group Cut Flowers

Florists now group cut flowers in combination with holly, pine sprays and berry clusters in charming, individualized arrangements for mantels, tables and door adornments.

Don't forget that children love to receive Christmas flower arrangements designed especially for them. You can order a child's size tree fashioned of boxwood and garlanded with carnations and silver beads, or even a flowering lollipop bush created to be eaten as well as sniffed.

And if you're in doubt, you will never go wrong by remembering: The gift that invariably pleases young and old is the poinsettia – the brilliant bloom of Christmas.

Petticoat May Be Used Under Tree

Rather than use cotton to cover the base of your tree this year, why not plan to make a gay petticoat.

These can be made quickly with felt and a pair of pinking shears. Cut a hole in the middle and slash from outer edge to fit around tree trunk. Scallop with pinking shears and decorate to your taste.

It's a labor saver too as it will catch needles and can be easily removed and dumped to make cleaning easier.

A gay idea for decorating the evergreen that's growing in your yard is to tie on brightly colored balloons.

Be sure to have a variety of ring molds around! They can be used as candle holders, for cutting cookies, to form gelatin salads for your Christmas dinner and for baking fancy tarts.

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