



Geraldine's fine performance in film, "Sweet Bird of Youth," won her an Oscar nomination.

to perform. Finally Quintero offered to cast her in a play. There was only one problem for Geraldine: it meant giving up her job in the negligee factory.

"How much can you pay?" she inquired. "I am afraid only ten dollars a week," Quintero told her.

Geraldine was making \$45 a week at Mamma Weinberg's, the most money she had ever earned in her life. Her teeth needed fixing more than ever, and she just couldn't afford to give up her job. "So I turned it down," she recalls wistfully, "with tears in my eyes and a promise to call him if I ever got fired."

When she went to work the following morning, Mamma Weinberg told her that the negligee season was over and that she would let her know in the spring if she could use her again. Mamma expected Geraldine to cry—but instead she laughed and threw her arms around her.

"I felt I had done my duty to maturity by staying on the job," Geraldine said. "When I was fired, I ran to the phone and asked José if he had given the part to anyone else. He hadn't."

To supplement her income until her salary was raised to \$25 a week, and later to \$75, she sold Christmas cards and did other part-time jobs. But not for long. The play in which she appeared was "Summer and Smoke," and her characterization of Alma in it brought her to the attention of every critic and producer in town. From then on, Geraldine could write her own ticket, both on Broadway and in Hollywood, where she has appeared in "Hondo" and "Summer and Smoke" as

well as "Sweet Bird of Youth." Her next film is "Toys in the Attic."

In spite of her success, Geraldine remains a comparatively shy person when it comes to discussing herself. When I tried to analyze the Midwestern influence on her life, she smiled sweetly but said: "That's none of your business."

She still is reluctant to talk about her two marriages. When she lived in Chicago, she was married briefly to a young actor who suffered a tragic death. She wouldn't go into details. In New York, she became the wife of violinist Alexander Schneider of the Budapest String Quartet. After three years, this marriage ended in divorce in 1957. Nowadays, her name is linked most often with actor Rip Torn.

GERALDINE readily admits that actresses have difficulty being married, particularly to actors. Nevertheless, she is convinced an actress should not avoid entanglements. "A good actress can't live in an ivory tower," she insists. "As for me, I know it isn't going to be easy, but I want to get married again, and I want a family. And no matter what you think, I feel I can make a go of it."

Yet it is obvious that her devotion to acting is all-consuming. An acquaintance of Geraldine's insists: "She's too wrapped up in her career ever to give it less than her full attention. She may say that she is willing to give up acting if it stood in the way of a happy marriage, but I don't think she could for long."

As I recall, Geraldine never really said she would.

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