



During 10 years of marriage, Simone has subordinated her career to husband Yves'.

sense. She says that she's too lazy for the work and sacrifice. "Besides," she adds, "what frightens me is that I've made many French pictures I like better than 'Room at the Top,' yet they've been completely ignored in the U.S.!"

Simone analyzes her popularity today by saying that the American public is tired of seeing baby-doll type leading ladies. By being an attractive, mature woman, Simone seems to reassure women in her own age group that they are not too old to interest men. And men seem to like her because she doesn't make a kittenish game out of love, but is candid and direct.

The same straightforwardness and maturity have made her popular in Hollywood. I first met her at a party given by Marilyn Monroe for Simone's husband, Yves Montand (who is Marilyn's costar in "Let's Make Love"), and a second time at her hotel bungalow, next door to Marilyn and her husband, playwright Arthur Miller.

I asked Simone if she was jealous of Yves playing opposite Marilyn and other glamour girls.

"Oh no, I like Marilyn very much," she replied. "Of course, I don't know what he does when we are separated, as we were when I made 'Room at the Top' in London and he costarred with Gina Lollobrigida in Rome. But I'm sure he behaved very well. I have never read anything in the papers about him going out with any other women, or behaving in any way that might do me harm."

A conventional answer, isn't it? Yet Simone and Yves did not meet "conventionally." Nor is their conversation about themselves conventional most of the time.

They met 11 years ago in the south of France. Yves was there on tour and Simone on vacation. She was married to director Marc Allegret, but it was love at first sight for her and Yves. As far as Simone was concerned, there was only one way to settle the matter. "I left Marc," she says bluntly. Allegret gave her a divorce and custody of their daughter, Catherine, now 14.

Simone says that Yves gives the orders

(Continued)



Montand's first U. S. film stars him with Marilyn Monroe in comedy, "Let's Make Love."

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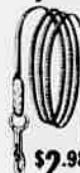
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