

The Daily Movie Magazine

CLOSE-UPS of the MOVIE GAME

By HENRY M. NEELY

Stenographers Can Soon Learn Scenario Writing

THE best school in the world for the study of the technique of scenario writing is the motion-picture theater.

These statements were made to me by no less a person than Ray Schrock in New York.

All of these, of course, have not been original stories. Many of them have been continuations of synopses furnished by some one else; many of them have been adaptations from published fiction.

Schrock is the man who wrote all the "Tonah" scenarios for Johnny Hines. He and Hines recently interrupted this series to do the big five-reel picture "Burn 'Em Up, Barnes" and Schrock wrote the scenario for that.

"Of course," said Schrock, "no school and no system of study will make a successful scenario writer of you if you haven't the knack of telling a story in the first place.

"It's only when they take pen in their hands and start to put it on paper that they become confused about how to arrange the order of their incidents and what words to use to describe things.

"That is probably because they have all heard about the technique of writing and the very word 'technique' scares them. They think it means something that requires long study and that is hard to understand.

"And that is true. You can learn more from an scenario that has actually been produced than you can from a dozen books.

"I NEVER yet saw a book or heard of a course of study that could give that vital and important difference between the written scenario and the script as actually produced.

"Now let's suppose that our friend Gertrude Jones has the knack of telling a story and she believes she could make a success of writing for the screen.

"First, there is no doubt that she can get some good from almost any of the standard books, in as far as they will explain some of the technical terms and some of the limitations of the screen.

"But all they can give her is theory. What she wants is the practical thing. So we take Gertrude up to go to a motion scene foreman when there won't be much of a crowd there and she brings a couple of stenographers' note books and a supply of pencils and we find a seat under one of the lights so that she can see while she makes her pot books.

"Gertrude isn't going to see any of the photoplay on this first visit. She's going to be too busy writing down what we tell her.

"As soon as the main title goes on the screen we start to dictate to her. And maybe it sounds something like this:

"Main title: 'The Sands of Time'—sub-title: 'On the Beach Shores of Cape Cod Three Days' etc.—fade in, long shot, shore and cliffs with fishermen's cottage—sub title: 'Like the Laffer Was the Terror of the Fisherman' etc.—iris in, medium long shot, Luke's ramshackle cottage with Luke at door—dissolve into close-up of Luke.

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THEM?



On the right is none other than Billy Sunday, who has been visiting some of the California studios. The gentleman in the characteristic pattern is Cecil B. De Mille. They are talking about censorship, and both are opposed to it.

THEY'VE RE-CREATED THE PAST TO FILM SARDOU'S 'THEODORA'



CONFESSIONS OF A STAR

As Told to INEZ KLUMPH

THE STORY BEGINS With the early days in the old Pine Axis studio in California when Colleen Moore, the Irish girl, Bessie Love and a host of others were not more than extra girls.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

CHAPTER XI MY FIRST impulse was to rush over and speak to Derry, but on second thought I drew back further into my corner.

All looking up at the deck, straining forward. Remembering you have lost some one in this shipwreck, unless they are among the survivors. Perhaps they were rescued and died on the way back to shore from exposure.



AN ITALIAN company has recently finished this elaborate spectacle, scenes of which are shown above.

To Be Continued Monday

'Daughter of Brahma' Story of Indian Life, Is Nearing Conclusion

'Daughter of Brahma,' J. J. Frothingham's forthcoming production, is rapidly approaching the conclusion of its filming.

Prominent in this stirring story of India and English colonization is the action which occurs in a ruined Hindu temple, which was reproduced with great accuracy in the exterior shots.

Marguerite de Mollie, the feminine lead in 'Daughter of Brahma,' plays the minor role of the heroine, Saricatta, the daughter of Brahma.

Lawson Butt Gave Up Music for Acting Career

ENTER another name to the list of actors who gave up musical careers for stage and screen. The latest to confess is Lawson Butt, playing the minor role of the hero in 'The String of the Lash.'

He admits he at one time had serious thoughts of devoting his life to music, but was offered an opportunity to play a minor role in Shakespearean repertory and accepted. Later he turned to pictures, found that he liked them and has remained on the screen.

INVENTOR OF TOYS AIDS DE MILLE GET SIAMESE COLOR

HAVE you ever seen 'Siim Soo'?' 'Siim Soo' is that Siamese narrative that dances a wooden Siamese dance in accompaniment to the latest jazz record.

It was the inventor of 'Siim Soo' Mrs. Florence Merlan, that Cecil B. DeMille turned for first-hand information when preparing Siamese scenes for 'Fools' Paradise.'

Mrs. Merlan had been months in the actual court of the King of Siam, working with him daily on a royal project which brought to the American woman knowledge of every possible phase of Cambodian life.

She saw the famous Wat Chang and the equally remarkable Angkor Wat, Oriental temples which Cecil B. De Mille duplicated for 'Fools' Paradise.'

And, especially important for 'Fools' Paradise,' she was in constant touch with the famous Cambodian Temple dancers, the strangest group of artists in the world.

It was the peculiar attire and grotesque notions of these sacred performers that suggested 'Siim Soo'—and made it possible for Cecil B. De Mille to reproduce in his picture the mystic Oriental temple dances.

In the forthcoming film the strangeness of the Oriental is particularly well set off by the modern attire of Mildred Harris and Conrad Nagel, playing prominent parts in the picture.

The Parisian gowns of the famous French danseuse and the immaculate white flannels of the young American oil operator are seen in contrast to the gorgeous trappings of Siamese royalty, not to speak of the dancing costumes.

These costumes were strange and wonderful to behold, of gold metal cloth with over two thousand jewels sewed on each. And the hats—tremendous pagoda effects in gold and tassel.

Dog Is the Hero in 'The Silent Call' Soon to Be Ready

WORD comes from the West Coast that 'The Silent Call' is now ready for distribution, the editing and titling having been completed.

This photodrama was produced by Laurence Trimble and Jane Murfin. Miss Murfin was responsible for the adaptation of the original story, 'The Cross Path,' by Hal G. Ewart, into screen form.

It is a thrilling tale of the High Sierra region. The real hero of the photoplay is Strongheart, world-famous police dog, who has won scores of prizes at dog shows on the European continent and was awarded medals for his valiant deeds as a Red Cross dog during the World War.

An unusually talented cast of human players appears in this production, including John Bowers, Kathryn McGuire, Arthur March, Sennett beauty, who has recently achieved success in dramatic roles; William J. Dyer, Nelson Harold, Robert Bolder and William V. Mong.

Belasco Farce Comedy Soon to Be Screened

DAVID BELASCO'S farce comedy, 'Is Matrimony a Failure?' is soon to be made into a picture at the Lasky studio in Hollywood.

'Is Matrimony a Failure?' was first produced by David Belasco on Broadway several years ago with Leo Lieberstein in the leading role.

It is a hilarious tale of the High Sierra region. The real hero of the photoplay is Strongheart, world-famous police dog, who has won scores of prizes at dog shows on the European continent and was awarded medals for his valiant deeds as a Red Cross dog during the World War.

The following theatres obtain their pictures through the Stanley Company of America, which is a guarantee of early showing of the finest productions. Ask for the theatre in your locality obtaining pictures through the Stanley Company of America.

- ALHAMBRA 12th, Market & Passaic Ave.
GRANT 402 Girard Ave.
AT WEST CHESTER RIALTO CLARA KIMBALL YOUNG
ALLEGHENY 17th & 18th Sts.
BETTY COMPTON
GREAT NORTHERN Broad St.
ALICE BRADY
IMPERIAL 90th & Walnut Sts.
BETTY COMPTON
LIBERTY Broad & Columbia Ave.
DUSTIN FARNUM
OVERBROOK 43rd & Haverford
BEBE DANIELS
PALACE 12th Market Street
WOMAN IN HIS HOUSE
PRINCESS 10th Market Street
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS
REGENT MARKET ST.
DOUGLAS MACLEAN
RIALTO GERMANTOWN AVENUE
THOMAS MEIGHAN
RUBY MARKET ST.
CHARLES RAY
SAVOY 12th Market Street
BERT LYTELL
SHERWOOD 5th & 6th Sts.
ALICE BRADY
STANLEY MARKET AT 17TH
THOMAS MEIGHAN
STANTON MARKET ABOVE 16TH
WILLIAM FOX'S VOYAGEUR PLAY
OVER THE HILL
333 MARKET STREET THEATRE
TOM MIX
VICTORIA MARKET ST.
LIONEL BARRYMORE
WILLIAM RUSSELL

CECIL DE MILLE HAS METHOD OF HIS OWN, CONNIE SAYS

By CONSTANCE PALMER

Hollywood, Calif., Oct. 7.—Cecil B. De Mille has started a new method of advertising his pictures.

"Saturday Night" is emphasized in advertising that this "is not a bathing picture" and "is not a bathing picture" and "is not a bathing picture."

Mr. Director General squinted a squint through the camera and then pronounced, "Good," and I wish I could show you not only the period of emphasis at the end of the word, but the expression of simple joy on the faces of the twenty-nine girls.

And then he said "Picture." And the terms that had been stated before became twenty-nine proofs that there may be perfect motion.

Bebe Daniels' next story will be an adaptation of two Saturday Evening Post stories by Sammie Lewis. As usual, Reelart won't divulge the dark secret of the names.

The continuity of the next Wanda Hawley story will be written in describing the atmosphere on Mr. De Mille's set.

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Answers to Questions From Movie Fans

SYLVIA—The pictures in which Norma Talmadge has appeared for First National are "Daughter of Two Worlds," "The Woman Giver," "Yes or No," "The Brand New Girl," "The Passion Flower," "The Sign on the Door," "The Wonderful Thing," and at present she is working on "Smilin' Through." She is the wife of Joseph Schenck.

EILEEN—The last picture in which Douglas Fairbanks was seen was "The Woman, Marriage." The name of his new picture has not been announced. He is in Europe on a vacation at the present time, and as far as I know is not making pictures there.

DIN—Yes, "Ten Hurs" is to be filmed very soon. Marshall Nolan chose Wesley Barry from a group of youngsters playing on the street. You will soon see him in "Ten Hurs."

BETTY G.—Erling von Stroheim is married. Mrs. Mary Kay is driving a very nice automobile in "Everything for Sale." Come to think of it, she and Jaqueline Logan do resemble each other quite a bit.

HILDEGARDE—"The Silk" is the latest picture in which Agnes Ayer appears. Rudolph Valentino is her leading man.

ZERUAH—No, indeed, Mabel Normand is not in "Molly O." Her next picture is "Molly O."