

The Daily Movie Magazine

CLOSE-UPS of the MOVIE GAME

By HENRY M. NEELY

Fanny Hurst Tells What She Thinks of One Photoplay

RIGHT in line with a few nasty remarks I made here the other day in answer to Ince's questionnaire on the present state of the movies, comes word from New York that Fanny Hurst, author of many wonderful stories, has much the same opinions about the methods of the modern director in transferring a story to the screen.

Fanny Hurst wrote "Star Dust." The film scenario was made by Anthony Paul Kelly. It was directed by Hobart Henley and stars Hope Hampton. So now that everybody has "credit" for the performance, let us get on with the story from New York.

Miss Hurst invited a lot of her friends to attend a private showing of the film which she herself had not then seen—in the projection room of the distributing company. They sat in silence and in darkness while the action went on on the screen and then, when the lights were turned on, Miss Hurst, without the formality of an introduction, rose and said:

"I want to apologize to those of my friends who are here at my invitation to see this so-called version of my novel. The tawdry story which you have just seen dragged across the motion-picture screen in my name is not the story of my novel as those of you who have read it must realize, but a conglomeration of incredibly cheap and tramped-up situations and titles.

"It is inconceivable that, as an author, I must be subjected to the humiliation of having the perversion of my idea go broadcast over the country as my story.

"What you have just witnessed in an effort to the taste and intelligence of the beholder, whoever he may be, and an insult to the book and the author. To have it go out to the public under my name and title is misleading and damaging and I intend to leave no stone unturned to prevent that happening.

"I offered my time and services in the writing and adapting of the screen version. That offer was ignored and the cheap, tawdry story we have just witnessed is the result.

"I shall take every step to have my name and title removed from this so-called version of my novel. It is neither my theme, my story nor my idea."

IT SEEMS to me that this contains an illuminating answer to the producers' often-asked question, "What seems to be the matter with the movies?" Those few words, "cheap—tawdry," about sum it up. The viewpoint of most directors is "cheap—tawdry." They think that is the viewpoint of the public, but it is not. I am not speaking of settings and costumes. Neither was Miss Hurst. It's the mental atmosphere that is cheap and tawdry.

Gertrude, Riverside, N. J.—Maurice Costello has not appeared on the screen for some time, but he hasn't given up his love for it. In fact, he has only recently finished work in a Selwyn picture which you will see some time this winter. Yes, you are right. He was a very competent and attractive hero in his early days.

Flo-Bee, 1742 Wylie street, writes—"I get much enjoyment from your answers. Thank you. Now please tell me what has become of Edith Story? Is she married? Also I see that they speak of making a picture of 'The Christian' as if it had never been done before. But it was—some years ago—and it was splendid. Earl Williams and Edith Story had the leads. Also you say that, according to your knowledge, Mme. Bernhardt never appeared in pictures, but she did—in several. Before the war she appeared in 'Camille,' and during the war she appeared in a picture called, I believe, 'Mothers of Men.' But I am not sure as to the title. It was a French war story. She has also appeared in others since. I think, however, I did see her in those two. Now please don't tell me that 'Camille' is Mme. Bernhardt's stage play and not a picture. I never saw her on the stage but I did see her in that picture. I also saw Clara Kimball Young and I thought that she was even better than Madame. Of course she was wonderful and more slim. Now I hope to see Naimova in 'Camille' and I expect that she will be something different. I thought you might like to know that Mme. Bernhardt and I have not taken up too much of your valuable time."

The more of my time you take up, the more valuable it is to me. (Good. I call that—eh?) I've already abused myself to the fans for not remembering Bernhardt's pictures. But your letter makes me recall seeing one of them.—I don't know which—but it must have been made after she had her leg amputated, for I recall that she sat in a chair throughout the picture. I don't remember what that film was. I haven't the information you want about Edith Story, but I'm on the track of it. Watch this column for it.

All Friends, 647 Clinton street, Camden—I imagine the picture in which you saw Jack Holt and Lila Lee was "After the Show." I don't blame you for thinking they were wonderful. They were one of the best pictures of this year. Address them care of Famous Lasky Studio, Hollywood, Calif. They will be delighted to hear you liked them. If you ask for a picture, however, be sure to follow the custom of enclosing twenty-five cents. Pictures cost money and while stars are delighted to send photographs to admirers, their bills would be enormous.

Hopeful, 2058 Venango street—Sorry to have kept you waiting so long for your answer. You will not be disappointed because this was Theda Bara's latest picture, but I am fairly sure it was "The Lure of Ambition." She was married last July to Charles J. Brannigan. Address her care of the Fox Studio, Fifty-fifth street and Tenth avenue, New York.

Ting Ling—My records show that Rudolph Valentino and Jean Acker both entered suits. When Jean Acker's suit came up to court last month it was revealed that Valentino married her under the name of Guglielmo, and they were known to intimates as "He and Mrs. Guglielmo," so that is evidently his real name. He was born in Castellana, Italy. Address him care of Lasky Studios, Hollywood, Calif.

Curious, 4246 Chestnut street—Here's the dope I got from the Lasky office about your rumor of Bebe Daniels' divorce. "Nobody here in the office recalls ever having heard that Bebe was even married, and we have no data in our logbooks to show she was. Therefore I think a 'No' will be perfectly safe."

What Your Favorite Film Stars Are Doing—Richard Station, former Fox director, has formed his own company. Pearl White is leaving Fox after the first of the year. George Walsh has signed with Universal to star in a serial. Viola Dana is to be starred in a forthcoming comedy comedy, written by Frank Roland Conklin. Jacques Jacard, Howard Mitchell and George Marshall, directors, have left the Fox West Coast organization. William H. Tucker, noted character actor, has been engaged to direct and play the principal character role in two stories by Dr. Frank Crane. Midge Evans, famous as a child actress, who is now just sixteen, has been signed up by Edgar Selwyn to star.

Dolores Cassinelli has formed her own producing company, with Edith Chastain, her well-known French actress, handling the megaphone. Dorothy Phillips will shortly start work on her next feature under the direction of her husband, Allen Holubar. Allen Forrest has been engaged to play the lead opposite Mary Miles Minter in his latest picture, written by Helen R. Martin, but as yet unannounced. Ernest Hilliard has been engaged to star in a picture with George Arliss in "Jule Hands."

Mlle. Andree Peyre, the French actress and screen star, has been engaged to play opposite Reginald Denny, the star, in the third episode of "The Leather Stocking," the H. C. Wright series, which are being produced under the direction of Harry Pollard. Jerome Storm, Charles Ray's former director, has been engaged to handle the megaphone for Jackie Coogan's next picture, and Albert Austin, for years "Cagney" man, has with Charlie Chaplin, has been engaged to get in a similar capacity with the tiny star by the Coogan officials.

FOR YOUR SCRAPBOOK OF STARS



IRENE CASTLE

POPOCATEPETL IN ERUPTION

Smoke and Ashes Thrown 2500 Feet Above Summit of Mountain—Mexico City, Dec. 12.—(By A. P.)—Popocatepetl, the great volcano south-east of this city, burst into violent eruption yesterday afternoon, a column of smoke and ashes being thrown 2500 feet above the summit of the mountain. President Obregon was entertaining a party of friends at Chapultepec Castle and had strolled with them on the balcony when he observed the eruption. He called for strong field glasses, and after closely observing the column of smoke rising forty miles away, directed that two aviators be sent to the mountain to ascertain the seriousness of the outbreak.

The aviators reported upon their return that they had heard heavy rumbling in the mountain and that lava was flowing down the slopes below the crater. Warnings have been sent to the residents of villages near the mountain, but reports indicate that these small towns have been deserted for weeks. Within the past month Popocatepetl has been reported active and a serious outbreak is forecast.

H. CLAY EVANS DEAD

Former Commissioner of Pensions and Consul General at London—(Chattanooga, Tenn., Dec. 12.—By A. P.)—H. Clay Evans, former United States Commissioner of Pensions, and Consul General at London, 1902-1905, died suddenly at his home early today. He was seventy-eight years old.

Mr. Evans' career began with his enlistment in a Wisconsin regiment during the Civil War, at the close of which he returned to Tennessee as an iron and railway car manufacturer. After serving two terms as Mayor of Chattanooga he was elected to the Fifty-first Congress as member from the Third Tennessee district. In 1892 he was First Assistant Postmaster General in the Harrison Administration. In the State elections of 1894 he was returned as Governor on the face of the returns, but after a recount by the Legislature the result was overturned. In 1896 he was a prominent candidate for the Republican nomination for Vice President, but lost to William McKinley. In 1902 he was Commissioner of Pensions. From 1907 to 1909 he was American Consul General at London. Mr. Evans was delegate-at-large to all Republican National Conventions from 1892 and 1916.

Dies of Overdose of Medicine—Uniontown, Pa., Dec. 12.—(By A. P.)—Ben L. Hunt, a prominent local contractor, died in a hotel here late last night after accidentally taking an overdose of medicine, according to the police. Hunt had summoned his wife and nephew by telephone, telling them of his condition. They arrived shortly before his death. Hunt had been suffering from a nervous ailment.

After-Dinner Tricks

affectionately called—have had a bitter and recent struggle to attain their present success. Perhaps with some of them the struggle is too lately passed, and too bitter to be repeated, for them to look at it with the calm philosophy that time alone can give.

HELEN JEROME EDDY, of whom all trace had apparently disappeared for the last few months, has just come into view again as leading lady for a new Goldwyn picture, called "Always Warm and Green," by Gouverneur Morris. It sounds very placid, and they tell me Helen will do a character study of great heart appeal. By the way, she's an ex-Studio Club girl.

Lon Chaney has gone to New York for his first visit. Although he has been on the stage for goodness knows how many years, he has never set foot in America's capital of learning and sophistication.

Harold Lloyd has changed the name of his newest and just-completed comedy from "The White Feather" to "He Who Hides."

DREAMLAND ADVENTURES

The Slumber Sprites BY DADDY

Jack and Janet, seeking the summer bird that sings spring songs in the autumn woods, are turned into chipmunks by Dame Ince's magic. They go on a trip underground with Chip and Chipper Chipmuck, and find Sleepy Woodchuck making his winter nap. The chipmunks tease Sleepy Woodchuck until he awakens and then he grabs them.

CHAPTER I. Good-by Bodies

"WHERE do you go when you go asleep?" That is the question Jack and Janet and Chip and Chipper Chipmuck had asked Sleepy Woodchuck.

"I'll show you," grunted Sleepy Woodchuck, gathering them to him and snuggling them as a mother cat snuggles her kittens. At once all felt themselves falling into a doze. As they dozed Sleepy Woodchuck crooned a dreamy lullaby:

"Come, come, come on the wings of sleep. Come, come, come o'er the ocean deep. Come, come, come where there is no snow. Come, come, come where warm breezes blow!"

Suddenly Sleepy Woodchuck ceased his crooning and gave a sharp bark. "Come!" he ordered. "Shake off your heavy bodies! Leave them sleeping here and roam the world with me."

At that Jack and Janet and Chip and Chipper Chipmuck gave themselves a sharp jerk. And they seemed to jerk themselves right out of their bodies. Their bodies still lay beneath them, smugling close to Sleepy Woodchuck's body in Sleepy Woodchuck's nest, but they were no longer in the bodies. They were in new forms—forms as light and airy as though made of fog or smoke.

And Jack and Janet were no longer chipmunks, into which they had been turned by Dame Ince's magic. They were a boy and girl again, though as small as Chip and Chipper Chipmuck. Near by stood Sleepy Woodchuck as shadow-like as themselves. He was not drowsy now. He was awake, alert and grinning.

"That grin made Chip and Chipper Chipmuck remember that Sleepy Woodchuck had a score to settle with them. They had tickled and teased him until he had awakened against his will. Now they expected him to go after them, and they got ready to run.

"Don't be afraid," chuckled Sleepy Woodchuck. "I can't harm you, now, you can't harm me, and nobody can harm us."

"Why not?" asked Janet, who was wondering much by the change which had come over them. "What has happened to us?"

INDIANS BUY AUTOMOBILES

Money From Sale of Tribal Lands Used to Purchase Motorcars—Washington, Dec. 12.—(By A. P.)—The automobile seems to possess the same irresistible fascination for the Indian that it does for many of his white brethren, says the annual report of the Board of Indian Commissioners, made public today. Agents in all parts of the Indian country, the report said, have started in many cases the first proceeds of the sale of tribal lands to purchase a high-powered automobile and a full complement of accessories.

The report recommends that citizenship be conferred on all non-citizen Indians, but that the Government continue its "protective supervision over their property affairs."

What is "A Blessing on Your Head"?

ED. PINAUD'S HAIR TONIC of course!

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Eat more raisins

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"We have become Slumber Sprites," was Sleepy Woodchuck's astonishing answer. "We are free to roam the world while our bodies sleep here." I will take you to where I go when folks think I am snoozing in my hole far beneath the ice and snow.

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INDIVIDUAL LINGERIE SHOP SANSON AT THIRTEENTH STREET

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, Morris & Passyunk Aves. BERT LYELL "THE MAN WHO" ALLEGHENY "UNDER THE LASH" APOLLO "QUO VADIS?" ARCADIA "WHY GIRLS LEAVE HOME" ASTOR "WHY GIRLS LEAVE HOME" BALTIMORE "CHARLES RAY" BENN "ANITA STEWART" BLUEBIRD "WHY GIRLS LEAVE HOME" BROADWAY "AFTER THE SHOW" CAPITOL "DON'T TELL EVERYTHING" COLONIAL "MARRIAGE" DARBY THEATRE "THE RIVER'S END" EMPRESS "THE WOMAN UNTAMED" FAIRMOUNT "AFTER THE SHOW" FAMILY "JUSTINE JOHNSTONE" 56TH ST. "THE WHITE RIDER" GLOBE "ELAINE HAMMERSTEIN" GRANT "JANE NOVAK" GREAT NORTHERN MIRIAM COOPER "THE SERENADE" IMPERIAL "CLARA KIMBALL YOUNG" KARLTON "FOOL'S PARADISE" Lehigh Palace "Why Girls Leave Home" LIBERTY "BUCK JONES" OVERBROOK "WALLACE REID" PALACE "ANITA STEWART" PRINCESS "WHY GIRLS LEAVE HOME" REGENT "DESSERT BLOSSOMS" RIALTO "ELSIE FERGUSON" RUBY "LIVE AND LET LIVE" SAVOY "POLA NEGRI" SHERWOOD "THOMAS MEIGHAN" STANLEY "BETTY COMPSON" STANTON "THE QUEEN OF SHEBA" 333 MARKET "WHY GIRLS LEAVE HOME" VICTORIA "SHAME" RIALTO WEST CHESTER "GLORIA WANSON" BELMONT "DOUGLAS MACLEAN" CEDAR "FLORENCE REED" COLISEUM "A WIFE'S AWAKENING" JUMBO "DON'T NEGLECT YOUR WIFE" LEADER "ELSIE FERGUSON" LOCUST "DANGEROUS CURVE AHEAD" NIXON "THE MONEY MANIAC" RIVOLI "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" 69TH STREET "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" STRAND "PAULINE FREDERICK" AT OTHER THEATRES MEMBERS OF M. P. T. O. A. Germantown "Russell Simpson in 'Snow Blind'" HAROLD LLOYD "NEVER WEAKEN" JEFFERSON "BETTY COMPSON" PARK "THOMAS MEIGHAN"