The Daily Movie Magazine RES

FILM ACTOR'S LIFE NOT ONE OF EASE. SAYS DAVID BUTLER

THE actor should not be blamed for whatever depression exists in the notion-picture industry," declares David Butler, who has risen to the defense of the craft. Butler's remarks were prompted by the Associated Press dispatch, dated New York and quoting William Brandt, president of the Theatre Owners' Chamber of Commerce, as saying that motion-picture stars must reconcile themselves to salary cuts to bring theatre business back

"There seems to be a popular impression that motion-picture actors live a life of ease and luxury," said Butler. "I want to cite one example, not to engender sympathy for myself, but to indicate how actors are co-operating with the producers to effect the greatest economy possible in the cost of a pic-

"In the making of my present story, "According to Hoyle," Louis Burston, the producer, called us all together and asked if we would be willing to spend Christmas away from home. A leading lady is more often than not pictured as excessively temperamental and exacting in her demands. Helen Ferguson, who is playing opposite me, was guson, who is playing opposite me, was

"While home people were enjoying themselves at pleasant firesides with their families and children on Christmas Day our company—which means mechanics as well—was in a bleak little town where the hotel accommodations are not anything to advertise broad-

"Cloudy weather developed. Hud-dled about a little brush fire, we pa-tiently waited for stray shafts of sun-shinetto 'shoot' scenes. Weather con-ditions delayed our schedule to such an extent that Mr. Burston said he would not ask us to remain New Year's, but that if we went back to Los Angeles and returned to finish the work it would cost him approximately \$5000. One and all voted to remain.

"RETURNING to Los Angeles we had additional exterior scenes to work at 8 o'clock in the morning, laid off from 4 to 6 o'clock in the afternoon, tesumed work at 6 and worked con-tinuously until 3 o'clock the next morn-

'Here is one point which I want to layman seldom takes into considera- seventeen, so you will know what things tion. A bank president, for example. I disagree with you on. can be in but one place at one time.

"But the salaries, even at that, are

that is bending under the burden of

FILM ARCHITECTS ARE KEPT VERY BUSY THESE DAYS

There used to be a time in the history of the industry when all that was needed for a picture was a park bench, an interior kitchen set, such as used in stage plays, a fancy "drop," perin to work on the cinema production. These technical experts have brought These technical experts have brought to the screen every country under the sun almost. Let the locale of the story be in Thrums. Scotland. Sir J. M. Barrie's birthplace, as it was in "The Little Minister." and Thrums is built. Perhaps the action of the story takes place in a beautiful French garden as in "Forever." the adaptation for the

Not long ago at the Lasky west coast studio a reproduction of a street in Paris, Rue Macabre, was required for "The Green Temptation," a Betty Compson picture. The result of the work of the architects, artists and experts was a marvel of perfection. perts was a marvel of perfection. When abown on the acreen the audience will get a breath of that fascinating city which Americans know so much better since the World War.

Innumerable examples of this work can be cited, especially in the last few months, at the same studio where a complete New York street was built for "A Prince There Was," and the Grand Central Station for "If You Believe It. It's So," and a section of the New York elevated for Cecil B. De Mille's production, "Saturday Night."

For Wallace Reid's latest picture, "Across the Continent," more work was required, as the picture shows sev-

was required, as the picture shows several towns in different parts of the eral towns in different parts of the country. More than a month's time was spent by the research department in gathering photographs from various parts of the United States, showing oil filling stations, street scenes and the like. Although the company making this picture has traveled to San Fran-cisco, Barstow, the Mojeve Desert and points, it was impossible to visit other points, it was impossible to visit all the cities which the great transcontinental automobile race, the big feature of the picture, covers, so scenes of Jersey City, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Dedge City and other points were constructed at the studio.

FOR THE FILM FAN'S SCRAPBOOK



We will be glad to publish the pictures of such screen players as are

THE MOVIE FAN'S LETTER-BOX

By HENRY M. NEELY

Letter Box. I agree with you on 'alemphasize about a motion-picture star's most everything you say. I say 'al- fans will correct me, so watch the salary a thing a bank president or a most because I am a young girl of column.

reason why a picture star receives more make faces at the camera. I think she money than a legitimate stage actor. In short, he is 22,000 persons. Therefore, from a simple point of economics that the camera. I think she was positively ludicrous in 'Way Down run the Evening Public Lenger Movie Beauty Contest, weren't you? reason why a picture star receives more make faces at the camera. I think she Film Company, at Betzwood, Pa.? fore, from a simple point of economics he receives a proportionate share of the receipts of each theatre where he haven't seen 'Orphans of the Storm' Contest—am I right or wrong?) and I don't intend to go, for, while I

of them seldom average over forty weeks' work a year.

"I confess to only a layman's knowledge of how a theatre is conducted, but I will say this in reply to Mr. Brandt: It is the motion-picture star's back that is bending under the burden of that is bending under the burden of the tremendous expense of prologues and extensive orchestras."

I have a suspicion you are fooling me about your name and age? The combination of "Betty" and "Beverly" and "Devon" sounds familiar. Am I right? If not, I apologize.)

X X X X.: You're right; she is a "perfect dear." Thank you very much for the extremely friendly tone of your letter. Unfortunately, a busy theatrical and movie reviewer doesn't get THE modern magic of motion-picture any time for such pleasures. Why not making involves no end of ingenuity, send the card anyway?

Claude W. Ash: Thanks; we'll print the picture of Shirley Mason soon.

in stage plays, a fancy "drop," perhaps, some sunshine and sctors. Now with complicated scenarios calling for scenes in every section of the United States, to say nothing of foreign countries, a research department, art department, architects, interior decorations and experts of all kinds are called the science of acting—the extense of acting—the ext Nell Martin writes: "Indeed,

Perhaps the action of the story takes place in a beautiful French garden as in "Forever," the adaptation for the screen of Du Maurier's story, "Peter Theetson." The art department built the garden on the studio stage.

Not long ago at the Lasky west coast

Not long ago at the Lasky west coast we'll have finer pictures or finer acting in them until audiences do know."

> (I do believe in training audiences to a better judgment of both stage and screen art. That is, I believe in the sereen art. That is, I believe in the theory, but I'm afraid it's rather hopeless in practice. My objection to expressing unfavorable views of the film we were discussing was merely that I wanted the fans to see it first. If we expressed those views and the fans then went to see it with our criticisms in their minds, they would unconsciously look on the film with our eyes without knowing why. If, on the other hand, we let them see the film first, form their own views and then, in a general discussion, show them how and why discussion, show them how and why those views are wrong, I believe the effect is more educational and that they will begin in time to see the methods by which a trained critic analyzes a in a small part in one and as ingenue by which a trained critic analyzes a production and forms his estimates of an actor's performance. And yet, between ourselves, I'm not altogether convinced that it pays to have the critical viewpoint. I'm afraid the general public doesn't want the best and never public doesn't want the best and never fastering offers the has bed to go on the

Betty Donaghue — Elliot Dexter views. I prefer to see the fill played the lead in "The Squaw Man." and form my own opinions.)

med work at 6 and worked conously until 3 o'clock the next mornwith a bitter cold wind blowing

Betty Beverly, Devon, writes: "I I think you are mistaken about
sm an ardent reader of the Movie Fans" "Salome." Nazimova is going to do it,
but I don't think it has yet been filmed.

George J. Wilson, 1403 N. Bouvier can be in but one place at one time. A motion-picture star can be in 22,000 "I think you are absolutely right in theatres simultaneously. That is the saying Lillian Gish does nothing but What has happened to the Betzwood

"But the salarles, even at that, are not what they are believed to be. We have to buy an extensive wardrobe for a picture and never use it again. Hardly a day passes when it does not fall to our lot to be host either to some notable person or man of importance or a group of 'fans' from another city.

"The Love Flower'?

"I agree with you also about Mary Pickford. She is—or rather her pictures are—beastly bores.

"Could you tell me when "Tol'ble David' is coming to Philadelphia? Who actors' salaries have been cut. I know actors' salaries have been cut. I know actors' who formerly received \$200 a week who are now getting \$50. This sounds large—the \$200, I mean—but it must be remembered that an actor is not continuously employed. The best of them seldom average over forty weeks' work a year.

and I don't intend to go, for, while I love Griffith's pictures, I can't stand those two Gish girls. Why doesn't Toonerville' people invited everybody up to inspect the studio and also help to inspect "Well, now, I'll run back to where I

erville Tangle, and if it wasn't for Ralph Spence and Dan Mason (not to forget the trolley car) what would there be to the picture? The hero, heroine, Bangs, Katrinka and the rest of the company just act fixe a bunch of amateurs (excepting the villain, who was the most natural person in the whole picture.)

"If you can get any information concerning the comedy in question, I will be very much obliged to you. There was no title given out when they were

"And one more question, then I'll give you a rest. Where is Madelaine Starhill, the winner of the Beauty Contest? How many comedies did she play in? What are their titles? What is Miss Starbill doing at present?

I'm anxious to learn what Mrs. Fiske called the 'science of acting'—the expression of character with certain and demonstrable technical means, not merely to act one's self in a given set of circumstances.

'May I disagree with you just a little and without meaning to be presumptuous in one of your remarks in constant.' I think you'll have to answer to my note to you? Don't you do the same.

press write-ups of Universal's 'Foolish Wives' by Eric Von Stroheim? Look in the Moving Picture World for January 21 and see what they say about the 'million-dollar production.

seldom pay much attention to those re-views. I prefer to see the films myself

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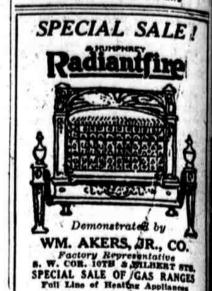
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