

The Daily Movie Magazine

FOR THE FILM FAN'S SCRAPBOOK



AGNES AYRES

We will be glad to publish the pictures of such screen players as we suggested by the fans

THE MOVIE FAN'S LETTERBOX

By HENRY M. NEELEY

Wanna Lou writes: "I was entirely satisfied with your 'Wally' Reid explanation and glad to find that there were no 'slams' intended. He's so very real and genuine in every part he plays, that I can't see how any one could really dislike him. There's nothing of the 'my hero' attitude about this opinion of him. It's just plain, sane admiration for a most interesting personality."

"It was with pleasure that I noted your comments on that splendid young newcomer, Glenn Hunter. The boy is talented, isn't he? I saw him for the first time in 'The Case of Becky' and was impressed by his unassuming sincerity. He has the same straightforward naturalness and lack of pose that characterized Richard Barthelmess. When the fat for the polished, malleable Valentino passes, together with the 'Sheik' type of film, young Hunter will undoubtedly come into his own."

"I'll admit that I'd rather 'see American first' although I can hear the oh-so-high and some of the not-so-high brass calling 'Main Street.' Well, let 'em! I liked 'The Cabin of Dr. Calhoun' ever so much. The treatment starts don't seem to me to be at all. To paraphrase a bit, I'd rather see the youthful and charming Miss Clara (Grouchy) than the slyly and stately Madame Jazminette. A provincial viewpoint? Wonder who the other fans think I'd like to know your own opinion on the subject."

"Isn't 'Tom' the cheerful cherub thought? Out of the entire collection of actresses, he picks out poor little Mae Murray. His silly, sharp remarks about her were both unnecessary and discursive. No, Tom, no 'braxy' about Mae. It would be a difficult one to say faintly, possibly, to become 'braxy' about a shadow on a picture stage. But I do like to watch Miss Murray, perhaps for the reason that she—or at least her screen self—has an unique and vital quality of her own. 'Fascination' was a very cleverly titled and all-around date."

"Wasn't Letrovaska all hot up when she saw the 'dope' film? She says, 'No, no, I like an argument.' That's all. As a popular writer, you might say, 'It's the foulest thing I've of.' And, listen in Letrovaska, little Miss May is quite and clever and pretty. Everything is all right. So what about the aid of a messengers that with at least a nickel's worth of discernment. She's original, too, and has real charm and personality, so there! Those last two words form a handsome type of a report. I'm aware, but I'm answering Letrovaska in her own name."

"Well, good luck, H. M. N. Those initials will probably be in Philly what G. B. S. is to London."

"There is a little devil of vanity in every amateur critic's heart, that urges them on to pounce on professional's pre-views, that is why I must have my little say about 'Foolish Wives.' What a picture, brutally vicious, rooking with sensuality, indelicately suggestive and despite it patronized by the public. Thankfully, I enjoyed it, but I had nigh the same sensation as a fourth-year old girl reading lurid French novel—enjoying it, but having sense enough to be ashamed of what she is doing. Yes, I have heard people say that 'Foolish Wives' did with a vital problem and was magnificently realistic. To be exact, I gained the impression that the man who wrote it must be either criminally inclined, or mentally deficient."

"If the public want realism, why not reveal in picture such as 'Miss Lulu Bett.' There were strokes of realism in that, so beautiful that they cut to the very heart. Realism is not the hideous skulking thing that Erich Von Stroheim could have us believe it is something that deals comprehensively, even beautifully with the facts of life. As to the vital problem in 'Foolish Wives,' wasn't it shown that all foreign affairs were degenerate, and that all American ambassadors' wives possessed infantile brains. That at least is the way it impressed me."

"In the ghostly fields of France lies the last answer to Van Stroheim's conception of life. These strong men are dead, because they fought to conquer militarism, and to preserve the honor and decency of their fathers. Yet in deep sleep, an answer written in sacrificed flesh and blood, men and women call themselves broadminded, because they like 'Foolish Wives.' Why not, notwithstanding, it suits the case better."

"There is in the average person's brain a hunger for beauty, which is more potent than physical hunger. But it almost appears as if every one is ashamed of such a feeling. For ever the forms of drama the patronize beauty and pride they would naturally feel in it. Let the people, the masses who made the philosophy possible, speak up against such a picture as 'Foolish Wives.'"

"The only trouble is that once a national moving picture reform starts to stir through a movie without a single flourish being above his head, that is why 'Foolish Wives' is so hideous, because it is a reiteration of truth. The kind of life that drama truth begins to reveal in it. The amusement which is suggested presentation of human nature; management should rather be a helpful influence in life, so that we may better perfect our work. Did 'Foolish Wives' do anything like that, except to stupefy and evil letters who make a life work of crime? Think it over."

"I'm able on the subject of 'Foolish Wives' are as monotonous as the first chapter of Genesis, but monotonous or not, I simply had to get them off my chest."

"Your letter was too good to throw away and about the dangers to print. I did the letter and then I heard the words of truth, but you who have begged me to read the subject. But, yes, I make no comment."

"Mrs. A. F. Turner writes: 'This is my second offense and you published my first letter, give me a second being. I just couldn't refrain from making a comment on your review of "Kitty Clover." Say, it was great. She started out all right, but skidded.'"

"Honestly though I can't understand your attitude toward that picture, but yes, what harm could a picture of the kind do to anybody? I suppose you have your very good reasons for not printing it. You are usually fair and square."

"Frankly, 'Foolish Wives' interested me very much. I didn't like the story—Van Stroheim's viewpoint on life is slightly distorted, but say, did you notice his performance in 'Foolish Wives' in the realism?'"

"I certainly enjoy the 'Letter Box' and make sure of getting the Ledger every evening. Yes, and I like you a lot, too, and you if you do that the 'admirable Rodolph' could be a fascinating, old top. If you could see him through a woman's eyes you'd have a different take on it, wouldn't you? You know that feeling you get when you gaze into the dreamy orbs of your beloved one. I forget the name of the old Agnes Ayres? Well, that's the way I feel when Rudy turns those devilish eyes of his toward the camera. Say, how does the 'Ladies Who Live to the Movies' with you feel about your very dear

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Continued Marie O'Hara writes: