

"HERE COMES THE BAND" WITH TED LEWIS IS BANG UP MOVIE

Music Wins Plaudits of Show-Goers

It's Dandy Film Despite Some Bad Cutting by the Studios.

BY JOHN W. THOMPSON

That old battered velvet top-hat which Ted Lewis has tipped for every President since Theodore Roosevelt, is being twisted, twirled and tossed into the air again by the inimitable Mr. Lewis in his first movie, "Here Comes the Band," now at Loew's Theater.

The picture is, despite a confused continuity, a bang-up musical. Its success is due mostly to Mr. Lewis, Nat Pendleton and Ted Healy. The singing of Harry Stockwell, new leading man, is splendid. As an actor he has been plucked far too soon.

The story of "Here Comes the Band" is wrapped around a young singer from the West (Mr. Stockwell) who writes a song, sings it on an amateur radio program and wins the medal. But a publisher, feigning interest in the composition, steals the melody.

The Cutting Badly Done

With the aid of his pal (Mr. Healy) and his pal's friend, Ted Lowry (Mr. Lewis), who gets together with the band he directed during the war, and with the aid of the girl the young singer loves, a case against the song-thief is made and all turns out happily.

In cutting the picture, some one has shattered the continuity in several places so that the spectator is not sure just where the action is taking place or for what reason. This, of course, is not to the credit of the film. But the music is grand, and Mr. Lewis, if anything, is better on the screen than he is on stage.

After his "Songs of Yesterday" number (which he did last year on Loew's stage) one could almost feel the crunch of the peanuts beneath one's feet. And Charlie (Snowball) Whittier, who threw the peanuts all over Mr. Farrar's Palace floor last year, tosses tons of them in "Here Comes the Band." And, yes, they do that "Me and My Shadow" number.

A Baby Song—And Spanky! If all this doesn't make you applaud Mr. Lewis' showmanship, then it merely remains for you to wait for his traditional theme song, "When My Baby Smiles at Me," which is delightfully embellished in "Here Comes the Band" by the appearance of little Spanky McFarland.

Virginia Bruce is a little tragic as the leading lady, but that doesn't make much difference with Mr. Pendleton and Mr. Healy around.

It may not be according to movie-land logic, it may not be another "Top Hat" or "Broadway Melody," but "Here Comes the Band" is assuredly a topping desert for Ted Lewis fans.

With "Here Comes the Band" on the Loew's program is Claudette Colbert in "She Married Her Boss," with Melvyn Douglas and Michael Barrett.

Studios Now Editing 'Wings Over Ethiopia'

By Times Special

HOLLYWOOD, Cal., Oct. 7.—Paramount studios have set the title, "Wings Over Ethiopia," for its release of the full-length motion picture of Ethiopia, including sound interviews with Haile Selassie.

The film, which was made by L. Wechsler, Swiss film producer, is now being edited and scored with musical accompaniment. It will be shown as soon as the studio has completed its work.

Radio Fame Seekers Worry New York

By Times Press

NEW YORK, Oct. 7.—Would-be radio entertainers, flocking to New York to try for amateur program prizes, worried the Emergency Relief Bureau today. Officials disclosed a situation reminiscent of Hollywood's stranded youth, attracted by the movies. She develops some 300 fame-and-fortune seekers, disillusioned and destitute, come to the bureau weekly, its records showed. Among these are many who momentarily succeeded, but failed to find steady employment.

Lee, the Guinea Pig Boy

The first business venture of Lee Tracy, featured in "Two-Fisted," was a guinea pig farm, which he conducted profitably in the basement of his boyhood home until it was driven out by an exasperated Negro cook.

Marlene Turns Photographer

Marlene Dietrich, co-starring with Gary Cooper in "Desire," is an amateur photographer. She develops and prints snapshot negatives in a darkroom she has set up in her home.

Duncan Returns to Screen

William Duncan, star of silent serials and at one time the highest salaried actor in films, returns to the screen after an absence of 11 years, with a featured role in Zane Grey's story, "Nevada."

Seven Stand-Ins Working

There are seven stand-ins working in "Elysia Scarlett," Katharine Hepburn's new starring picture. There are generally stand-ins for just the star and perhaps one or two other important players.

Georgia Arrives in Hollywood

Georgia Coleman, Olympic diving champion, has arrived at the studios. She will play the role of a swimming teacher in "Collegiate," with Joe Penner and Jack Oakie.

Gladys Swarthout Film Due Here Soon

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She Pines for New York

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HOLLYWOOD, Cal., Oct. 7.—"Mrs. Mendelharper," the undertaker's widow in "A Very Good Young Man" was at home.

In fact, Miss Elizabeth Patterson was very much at home in her lovely apartment here when I arrived.

Miss Patterson, great character actress of both stage and screen, is best remembered in Indianapolis for her portrayal of "Mrs. Mendelharper" while with the Stuart Walker company at the Murat many years ago.

She since has become a Broadway star and one of the two chief character actresses at Paramount.

She Recalls Indianapolis

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"Indianapolis," she reminisced, "was wonderful to me. Our first nights were marvelous."

"Many times," she recalled, "I was so nervous on those first nights that I nearly made myself ill with worry. Would they like me? Would they be good? What would I do if I went up in my lines?"

"Then came the entrance applause and I always looked around a little dizzily to find something to lean against."

Happy in Hollywood

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I do get homesick for New York and the stage. That's always happening when I read of some show opening.

"I've just heard that Tom Powers and Mackay Morris are hits in a New York Guild show. We were all together with Stuart in Indianapolis and Cincinnati."

"If I could just get away occasionally to New York and act in a limited run play," she mourned, "everything would be perfect here. I want to feel an audience. To hear the applause which is the most wonderful thing in all the world."

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"University Park was nearly a home for me," she laughed. "I did as much studying there as possible."

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Screen Star Recalls Her Hoosier Days

Elizabeth Patterson Talks About 'First Nights' In Indianapolis.

BY WALTER D. HICKMAN

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