

Fun-Making Cantor Film Coming Here

Story of Comedian's Life Displays Little to Provoke Laughs.

BY JOHN W. THOMPSON

"When you laugh at me, it's because you think I'm funny, but when I make you laugh, it's because I have planned it seriously."

That is what Eddie Cantor wrote me once after I had requested his recipe for humor on the stage.

Upon that philosophy Eddie Cantor has built his reputation as a comedian. When he retired from the stage six years ago to devote himself entirely to pictures and radio, Eddie decided he could do justice to no more than one picture each year. He has stuck to his promise as has no one else in Hollywood, except Charlie Chaplin. Mr. Cantor is to be seen in his latest, "Strike Me Pink," at Loews starting Friday.

Believes Actors Smug

Mr. Cantor, who like all the leading professional humorists essentially is a solemn person, believes actors are too smug.

"They don't think enough," he says, "because they have nothing to worry about." So Eddie prescribes worry for those who are engaged in the interpretive work of the stage and screen. Eddie's sideline is writing—articles and books.

Eddie once was a ragged little street urchin in Hester-st. New York. He wasn't well bred. He wasn't even well-fed. But he had a stanch old grandmother who urged him on. And he picked up a few pennies singing and dancing and improvising jokes for passers-by.

At 14 Eddie got a job as clerk in a factory mailing room. A year later he was fired.

Won Amateur Prize

Although he won first prize in an amateur contest at Miners' Bowery theater, it was as a singing waiter in a Coney Island beer garden that he achieved his first real success. Jimmy Durante was his pianist, and folks endured the food to hear Eddie sing and Jimmie play. After working six months, saving tips and all, he got enough money together to buy his grandmother a fur coat.

Soon, however, Eddie got his start on the stage. He worked in a vaudeville act featuring Bedini and Arthur at Hammerstein's Victoria theater. Eddie was thrilled to death, but he didn't have much to do. During a stage wait once, he volunteered to sing. The manager acquiesced and Gus Edwards, who was in the same show, recognized Eddie's talent. He offered to give Eddie a job as "Gus Edwards' discovery," any time Eddie was out of work.

In 1912 Eddie became a member of the "Kid Kabaret" cast. And what a cast it included were George Jessel, Eddie Buzzei, George Price, Lila Lee and Gregory Kelly, all magic names to the eyes and ears of the theatrical public at that time. Eddie played the part of a black-faced butler.

Friend of Will Rogers

While touring with this act, Mr. Cantor met Will Rogers and there was born a long friendship. There was a sort of pleasant rivalry between the two as to their philanthropic work, and they took unusual interest in what the other was doing. Eddie is the main support of a boys' camp. He is one of the backers of another camp where he, himself, went one summer.

During the last few years, due probably to the familiarity of Eddie's radio broadcasts, the American public has come to better know Mr. Cantor's family. One of the nicest things about Eddie is Ida, his wife. They have been married happily more than 22 years. And who is there that hasn't heard Eddie remark about the "Cantor Home for Girls," referring to his five daughters.

Not long ago, on one of his broadcasts, Eddie mentioned the divorce of Janet Cantor, one of the "babies" of the family. Afterwards he called her long distance and asked how she liked hearing her name broadcast. In a very grown-up voice Janet answered:

Teaches Girls Thrift

Eddie is teaching his daughters to be thrifty, a lesson he learned at the cost of a fortune lost in the stock market crash. His two younger girls, Janet and Marilyn, are on an allowance of \$150 a week. When they are in debt they can't get a cent from "Papa" Cantor.

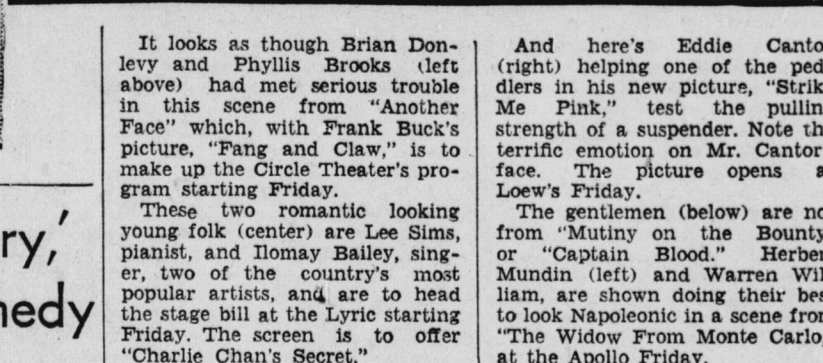
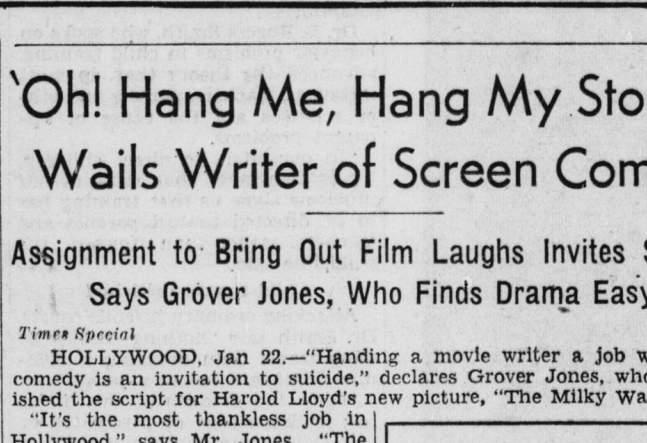
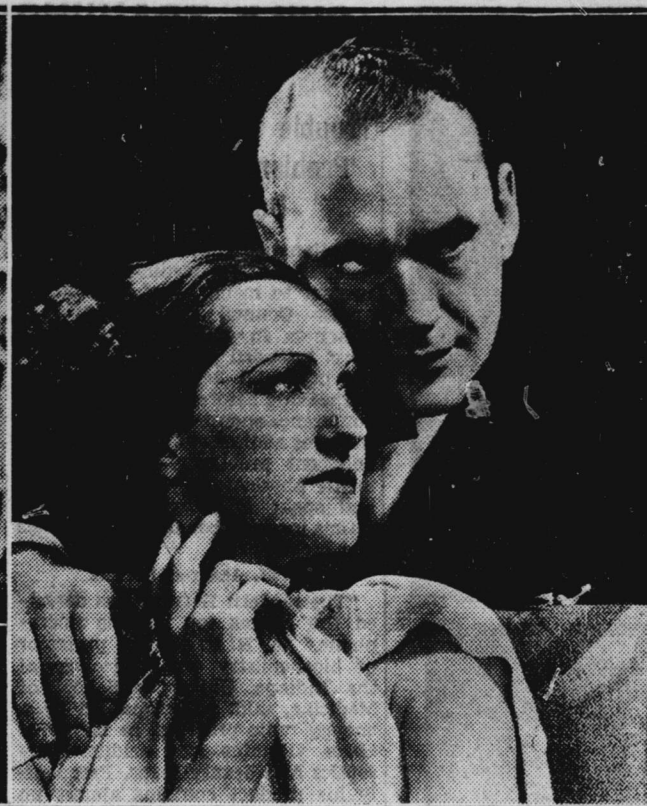
"Stay within your budget," he warns. "You're not producers yet." The secret of Eddie's and Ida's married bliss is "mutual respect," according to Eddie.

"If more women in Hollywood would use Ida's tactics, the divorce lawyers would starve," he says. In "Strike Me Pink," Eddie is supported by Ethel Merman, and Parkyakarkus, his radio stooge, who appears on the screen for the first time.

Shows Her Largest Catch

Madge Evans returned to Hollywood from San Diego with the biggest fish she caught near the Coronado Islands this season. She went to the Bay City for a rest after completing her role in "Exclusive Story."

Trouble, Romance and Laughter Promised in Screen Shows to Open Here Friday



'Oh! Hang Me, Hang My Story,' Wails Writer of Screen Comedy

Assignment to Bring Out Film Laughs Invites Suicide, Says Grover Jones, Who Finds Drama Easy.

Times Special

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 22.—"Handing a movie writer a job writing all comedy is an invitation to suicide," declares Grover Jones, who has finished the script for Harold Lloyd's new picture, "The Milky Way."

"It's the most thankless job in Hollywood," says Mr. Jones. "The funnier you are, the less credit you get. The actors get the praise. But fail once, and the attention all is yours."

Because he believes writers must get away from comedy occasionally to save their reputation, Mr. Jones now is doing a drama called "Buffalo Bill," for Courtney Ryley Cooper. He helped write "Lives of a Bengal Lancer," "The Virginian" and "Lady and Gent."

"Anybody can write a drama," says Mr. Jones. "When I have to write one I like to walk into story conference and say 'I've got it!' Then if I haven't a story, I have to make one, anyway. So I tell them a story."

"One day I was told to get George Bancroft and sell him an idea for a story. I didn't have a thing in mind. But I backed him into a corner, and told him I had one. So what did I do? I put a kid into the story. And I went on from there."

"I got Bancroft bawling like a baby, and he snugged up the story right there. Then all I had to do was to put it on paper. It was 'Lady and Gent,' one of the successes of the year. Shucks, anybody can write a drama."

"But comedy is different. It is the hardest thing in the world to write. And what chance do they give you? They tell two other fellows they are supposed to write a drama, and then give them three weeks. But when they decide they need a few laughs in it, they just call in the funny men and tell them, 'We need a good funny scene in the act.' And the funny men are supposed to come through right then."

Mr. Jones did comedy writing for "Trouble in Paradise," "Tom Sawyer," and "Huckleberry Finn," and then helped with the script for "The Milky Way."

Organ Recital Set for Friday

Donald Gilley to Present Mallory Bransford.

Donald C. Gilley, head of the organ department of Arthur Jordan Conservatory of Music, is to present Mallory Bransford, Anderson, an advanced pupil, in a graduate recital in Odeon Hall at 8:15 Friday night. The program is open to the public.

A graduate of Oberlin conservatory, Mr. Bransford has been studying at the local school toward the master of music degree, with a major in organ.

2—BIG FEATURES—2 Here it is—Don't Miss It! Fredric March, Miriam Hopkins, Gary Cooper, Ed. Everett Horton "DESIGN FOR LIVING" The Prize Picture of 1935 "OUR DAILY BREAD"

Forgets Pick and Shovel Edgar Edwards, the lad taken from a labor gang and given an acting contract, received a telephone call from his foreman last night asking why he hadn't been to work. When he explained, the foreman gasped and hung up. Mr. Edwards had forgotten to return his pick and shovel.

Always a Good Show "OHIO" Last Day 15c

PREMIERE WEDNESDAY EVE JANUARY 23rd AT 8:30 MAX REINHART'S Production A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM By Wm. Shakespeare 2 SHOWS DAILY All Seats Reserved Tel. 11-9000-2154 Mail Orders Accepted

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It looks as though Brian Donlevy and Phyllis Brooks (left above) had met serious trouble in this scene from "Another Face" which, with Frank Buck's picture, "Fang and Claw," is to make up the Circle Theater's program starting Friday.

These two romantic looking young folk (center) are Lee Sims, pianist, and Ilomay Bailey, singer, two of the country's most popular artists, and are to head the stage bill at the Lyric starting Friday. The screen is to offer "Charlie Chan's Secret."

And here's Eddie Cantor (right) helping one of the peddlers in his new picture, "Strike Me Pink," test the pulling strength of a suspender. Note the terrific emotion on Mr. Cantor's face. The picture opens at Loew's Friday.

The gentlemen (below) are not from "Mutiny on the Bounty" or "Captain Blood." Herbert Mundin (left) and Warren William, are shown doing their best, to look Napoleonic in a scene from "The Widow From Monte Carlo," at the Apollo Friday.

Garbo's Shoes Come Off, On Many Scenes Are Played In Stocking Feet.

Times Special HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 22.—Those enjoying relaxation with shoes off have something in common with Greta Garbo. Greta's habit of removing her shoes, however, is not confined to rest periods. When her feet do not show in a scene, she removes her shoes and works without them.

Under the same circumstances, Claudette Colbert wears a comfortable pair of mules. Another of Miss Colbert's idiosyncrasies is to leave a building by the same door she enters.

Just as their fellow citizens, movie people have their peculiarities. Ruth Chatterton chews gum. Comedian Charlie Ruggles always takes off his coat between scenes, whether he has a minute or an hour to wait. He dons an old gray suede jacket. Charlie also paces up and down while waiting.

Bing Crosby With Hat On Bing Crosby always broadcasts with his hat on. He likes to ride a bicycle around the Paramount lot.

Pies and doughnuts are carried Fred MacMurray while working in the studios. Actor MacMurray always eats between meals, and keeps property men busy sending to the studio commissary for snacks.

Neither Carol Lombard nor Maurice Chevalier care to appear in public without blue in their costumes. Miss Lombard has sets of sapphire

LAST 2 DAYS "APRIL BLOSSOMS" "LONE WOLF RETURNS"

LOEW'S Positively! The Biggest Laugh Hit of His Career! Eddie CANTOR "STRIKE ME PINK" STARTS FRIDAY! ETHEL MERMAN PARKYAKARKUS SALLY EILERS

TONIGHTS PRESENTATIONS NEIGHBORHOOD THEATERS

WEST SIDE 2702 W. 10th St. James Cagney "G MEN" "HERE'S TO ROMANCE"

BELMONT W. Wash. & Belmont Double Feature "THANKS A MILLION" "STORY"

DAISY 2540 W. Mich. St. Double Feature Gary Cooper "PETER IRETON" "THE GAY DECEPTION"

NORTH SIDE Illinois at 34th Rice "GUARD THAT GIRL"

UPTOWN 42nd & College George Raft "EVERY NIGHT AT EIGHT"

GARRICK 30th and Illinois Double Feature Ann Southern "THE GIRL FROM" "HI GAUCHO"

ST. CLAIR St. Clair & Ft. Wayne Double Feature Jean Harlow "HELL'S ANGELS" "RADIO REVELERS"

REX 30th at Northwestern Edward Arnold "REMEMBER LAST NIGHT" Comedy—Cartoon

TALBOTT Talbot & 22nd Double Feature Dan Wither "THIS IS THE LIFE" "MOONLIGHT ON THE PRAIRIE"

Stratford 19th & College Double Feature Nancy Carroll "ATLANTIC ADVENTURE" "DANGER AHEAD"

MECCA Noble & Mass. Double Feature Bruce Cabot "NIGHT ALARM" "DANGER TRAILS"

DREAM 2361 Station St. Double Feature Charles Laughton "MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY" Comedy—News—Short Reels

EAST SIDE Dearborn at 10th Double Feature Miriam Hopkins "SPLENDOR" "REVELERS"

200 Owners of Theaters at Meeting

Legislation Pending Before Congress Scheduled For Discussion.

Two hundred members of Associated Theater Owners of Indiana are attending their mid-winter meeting which opened this morning in the Claypool. R. R. Blair, Indianapolis, presided.

Evils of "block booking" and advantages of the Pettengill bill, now pending in Congress, are to be discussed by H. M. Richey, general manager of Allied Theaters of Michigan and director of the National Independent Association of Allied Theaters. Mr. Richey is to speak on both luncheon and dinner programs of the convention.

Committee meetings and discussion of reports and legislative subjects now confronting the theater industry were on this morning's program. Frank H. Sherr, chief state deputy fire marshal, was to speak on fire hazards in theaters and methods of fire prevention.

List of Speakers

Other speakers include: Maro Wolf, Fred Sanders, Harry Markun, A. C. Zaring and H. A. Galloway, all of Indianapolis; Walter Esley, Greensburg; I. R. Holycross, Anderson; Leonard Sower, Muncie; Roy Harold, Rushville; Sam Neall, Kokomo; Maurice Rubin, Michigan City; H. P. Vonderschmitt, Bloomington; Alex Mania, Fort Wayne; William Studebaker, Logansport; George Malety, Portland; Bob Scherer, Linton; V. U. Young, Gary, and Oscar Fine, Evansville.

Entertainment for wives of members has been arranged by a special committee of Mrs. A. C. Zaring, chairman, assisted by Mrs. Carl Niesse, Mrs. R. R. Blair and Mrs. Louis Markun, Indianapolis; Mrs. Maurice Rubin, Michigan City, and Mrs. H. P. Vonderschmitt, Bloomington.

Entertainment is to include a sight-seeing trip in the forenoon and bridge and bingo this afternoon in the rooms of the Variety Club in the Claypool hotel.

Banquet and entertainment, including a floor show, are to be given in the Variety Club room at 6:30.

INDIANA LAST 2 DAYS! ON STAGE EARL CARROLL VANITIES CAST OF 60! 1000 LAUGHS 20 SCENES 25c Unit 1 35c Unit 2 50c Plus Tax After 6

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