

'UNDER TWO FLAGS' FURNISHES FOUR-STAR ENTERTAINMENT

Legion Film Packed With Fast Drama

Story of Action, Heroic Love Best Since 'Bengal Lancer.'

sands of the Arabian desert have been ably sprinkled beneath the feet of Ronald Coleman, Claudette Colbert, Victor McLaglen and Rosalind Russell by Director Frank Lloyd, and the result is the best screen entertainment of its kind since "Lives of a Bengal Lancer."

The picture, "Under Two Flags," opening at the Apollo today, combines excellently the best portions of the Ouida novel with the splendid acting of the above quartet, and for almost two hours here this reviewer in a state of boyish excitement.

It is the story of a young British officer who enlists in the French Foreign Legion under the name of Victor to escape arrest for a crime which his younger brother committed and for which he had shouldered the blame. In Africa his brilliant military knowledge and able command of his troops under difficult conditions wins him a promotion from the company major, Doyle.

Chooses English Lady

At a cafe, run by a girl camp follower. Cigarette, Victor repulses her advances. Later he meets her in the market place, challenges her to a horse race with a kiss as the prize, wins. Off they race into the desert. And 'neath the romantic desert skies, she learns to love him.

When Victor returns he accidentally meets Lady Venetia, English girl who had accompanied the English High Commissioner to his post, and falls in love with her. He dares jail to court her and captures her heart. Then comes news of the gathering of Sidi-Ben Youssif's forces in the desert and Doyle, made a colonel, is given the task of fighting the Arabs. He tells Cigarette the glad news, receives a cold reception, forces from her admission of her love for Victor.

In the battle with the Arabs, Doyle sends Victor three times against the enemy with a deliberate attempt to have him killed. But Victor always comes back. At last he is trapped with a few comrades in an old fort. Doyle then relents, takes his entire force to the rescue. The result is that the whole army is surrounded by the wily African tribes. Facing extermination, Doyle and Victor make up.

Gives Life for Rival

But Cigarette rides at the rescue party from the base camp and, although she pays with her life, saves the man she loves. In his arms she dies after telling him:

"Tell your English lady that I saved you for her."

Back in the city, all of Victor's past is cleared up with no blemishes left on his record and Cigarette is buried with high military honors.

The one drawback to "Under Two Flags" is that it is too long. The speed it picks up during exciting episodes carries it right past the place where it should have stopped. The ending seems to be a rather childish attempt to "explain all."

Direction Is Adroit

Director Lloyd has handled a cumbersome subject artistically. The battle scenes are among the best that screen has produced. Natural settings and technical excellence is only surpassed by the super-normal cast.

Mr. Colman is his usual breath-taking self as Victor. He has the opportunity to get his face dirty fighting the Arabs and to display his flawless romantic technique with two lovely ladies.

Miss Colbert's performance is just another role at which to marvel. The reserve of this young actress is remarkable. The way she takes the part of Cigarette, in which she does not "win out in the end" and makes of it a dramatic masterpiece is ingenious.

For All the Family

Mr. McLaglen blusters and roars entertainingly as Doyle, and Miss Russell continues her upward climb in the sympathetic role of Lady Venetia. Deftly has Director Lloyd balanced this part with that of Cigarette so that audiences won't feel that the "wrong" girl was killed.

Among the smaller roles, that of Ivan, played by Gregory Ratoff, stands out as a gem of comedy. Nigel Bruce also appears in an excellent comedy part. J. Onslow Stevens plays the Arab chieftain with verve.

Here is film fare which is healthful food for the whole family. And there won't be a dull moment for the most blasé. It's a four-star picture in many ways than one. (By G. W. T.)

Leads Are Selected for Manual Play

Margaret Webber and Jack Kistner have been chosen for the leading roles in "Thanks, Artfully," one of two plays which will be presented in the Manual Training High School this afternoon by the Mask and Wig, a dramatic organization, for the benefit of the Red Cross Clubs.

Professional Quite Non-Professional

Madge Evans, who typifies young professional women on the screen, has never been in any profession except that of acting.

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Children's Cast to Repeat Popular Play Saturday



One of the Children's Theater's most successful plays, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," is to be presented again tomorrow at 10:30 and 2:30 in the Civic Theater Playhouse. It was given

last Saturday before a large audience. Among those in the cast are the groups shown above. Virginia Robinson as Snow White, is seated on the throne. At her

right is Nancy Langan. The ladies in waiting (left to right) are: Betty Carter, Herberton Weiss, Alice Murphy, Myra Saxon, and Margery Clark. Mrs. Rosamond Van Camp Hill is directing the production.

Powell Star of Mystery Comedy Hit

'Ex-Mrs. Bradford' Features Suave Actor in 'Thin Man' Role.



Takes Leading Role
Sonja Henie Flies West in Search for Role.

By United Press

HOLLYWOOD, May 8.—Sonja Henie, blond Scandinavian ice skater, today said she is ready at any time to take off the steel blades for a pair of high-heeled shoes and become an actress.

She arrived here yesterday from the East by airplane, accompanied by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Henie, and her professional skating partner, Jack Dunn.

Miss Henie readily admitted she is seeking a motion picture contract and scheduled skating engagements here so studio executives would see her.

One major studio was reported interested in signing her and will take a series of screen tests soon.

Miss Henie has been the world's champion woman figure skater for the last 10 years and is a veteran competitor in the Olympic winter games.

One of 27 Washington High School seniors to take part in three one-act plays tonight. Ann Mitchell (above) is to have a leading role in "The High Heart." A fantasy, "Three Pills in a Bottle," and "Suzanna Skids," a comedy played by 12 girls, complete the program.

One in a "Thin Man" type of role, the suave Powell is cast as Dr. Lawrence Bradford, affluent gentleman about town whose penchant for solving mysteries is squelched by his ex-wife, Paula. She naively gets him all mixed up whenever the opportunity is presented.

When a jockey dies suddenly during a horse race and the owner of the horse, Mike North, asks Dr. Bradford to examine the body for signs of foul play, it is the ex-Mrs. Bradford who gets her ex-husband into the case.

Suspected of Murder

Dr. Bradford finds a jelly-like substance on the boy's arm but nothing to indicate murder. Yet Paula hangs onto the murderer theory. Later Mike North's body falls in through Dr. Bradford's front doorway and the police suspect him of murder.

The same type of jelly-like substance is found on Mike. After a run-in with a gang of book makers who all but take Dr. Bradford for a ride, he accidentally discovers the murderer and the missile. This, we believe, is her best role to date.

With Eric Blore ("Top Hat's" perfect butler) as Mr. Powell's valet, Jimmy Gleason as the detective and Robert Armstrong as a gangster-booker, the cast supports the star remarkably well. The title might mislead one into thinking the film was another of the humdrum divorce-remarriage pictures which have cluttered theaters for some time. But take our word for it, "The Ex-Mrs. Bradford" has the brightest plot, the most sparkling comedy that has come out of Hollywood in months.

Don't miss it even if you have to beg or borrow the price of admission.

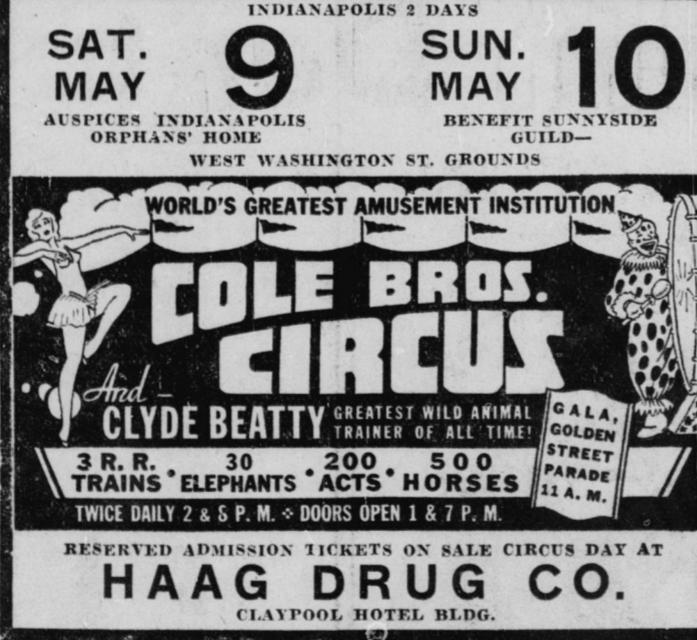
The comedy is, if anything, even spicier than the "Thin Man" and every bit as carefree as "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town," even though Stephen Roberts and not Frank Capra directed it.

For instance, when Paula discovers a test tube containing the jelly-like substance Dr. Bradford had found on the jockey's body, she steals it, has it analyzed and is told there is nothing poisonous in it. Undaunted, she serves Mr. Powell an entire meal made up of nothing but gelatin foods. There is gelatin consomme and gelatin salad and gelatin dessert. All through the meal she keeps asking him if he doesn't feel faint or dizzy. When he doesn't she is nonplussed and tells him her secret.

Able Supporting Cast

Again, when Powell battles with a burglar he has discovered in his apartment. Paula attempts to swing a vase over the scuffling couple and puts her lover out like a light. The picture is full of such situations.

Mr. Powell has an added touch of dignified humor in his role which makes it even more forceful



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