Character Parts Pleasing to Stage, Screen Veteran After Climb to Success

Edward Arnold Declares Ability to Stay in Profession More Important Than Ranking as Star; Began Career at Age of 15.

BY RUTH M'TAMMANY
Times Hollywood Correspondent

HOLLYWOOD, May 28.—Edward Arnold reached screen stardom in "Diamond Jim," a character portrayal which will remain long in the minds of those who saw him as the good-hearted, diamond-bedecked "Jim."

In "Sutter's Gold," he again characterized the man of an epoch story. Now, in Columbia's new production, "Meet Nero Wolfe," he is giving his role his unusual ability as a character actor.

Mr. Arnold began life in an atmosphere of drama. He was born in a tenement of the lower East Side, New York. There were six children in the family which struggled for existence in the crowded brick building at Houston and Forsyth-sts. His father became desperately ill and blind when Arnold was still a boy.

"When I was 10 years old, he died and that was the beginning of many hard years. I quit school and went to work for a jeweler at $3 a week. But after a year, an inspector from the board of education had me fired because I didn't have any working papers. I was too young to get them. My next job was in a law office. I stayed there a year by using my older brother's papers. When I got $14 a week in the German Club, I thought it was a fortune.

"My first acting experience was in an amateur performance of 'The Merchant of Venice' at the East Side Settlement House. I played the part of Lorenzo. There is always a beginning in the 'life' of an actor—a beginning of the desire to go into the theater, which he never loses even though he may become a lawyer or a marine.

'After one performance of 'The Merchant of Venice,' no other ambition ever got in my way although I upholstered furniture, oiled engines and had many sort of jobs before I finally signed up with the Ben Greet Shakespearian Players, when I was 15.

"Then my mother died and the Schneider family—our family name—scattered; the girls were adopted by various relatives and the boys struck out. I have been in the theater or on the screen ever since, that is when I wasn't walking up and down Broadway looking for another job after the unexpected closing of a play.

"We, of the old theater, who reach the mellow late forties and find places in Hollywood, feel a deep gratitude. Becoming stars is not the most important thing which happens to us, but that we carry on, in a profession, long past the 'matinee idol' or 'leading man' stage, is something for which every actor has wished."

# # #

Glenda Farrell once played an inebriated girl so well in a New York production that she was signed on the spot and brought to Hollywood for a similar role on the screen.

"It is a foregone conclusion now," she said, "that if the script calls for a silly woman who imbibes too freely I get the part. In my first year or so here, I used to lament about it; I was homesick to be a common-sense, practical sort of girl that I think or hope I am. At least, I would have liked a part like the many I have played in the theater. But no—'ah, the woman gets tipsy, does she? Call Glenda Farrell.' But I don't care any more. I am glad to know that in this big machine called motion pictures I fit into a part which I can do.

"The scenes we are taking today are from a story called 'Trouble Makers.' That sounds like me, doesn't it? But nary a drink do I take in the whole production. I am troublesome instead. I am intolerant, selfish and altogether unpleasant, and to a very nice man—Brian Donlevy. It seems good to have a leading man who comes so lately from the theater. I am apt to use the old theater technique of preparing for an emotional scene sometime before I play it: I think back over the story and try to catch the mood of the events leading up to the scene. Brian Donlevy has not been before the camera long enough to have supplanted that technique with one which is purely camera work. Consequently our scenes together are a treat to me who will keep to the theater method of quick emotionalization even if it does make lines around the eyes."

Mickey Rooney, the husky voiced, yellow haired boy who played "Puck" in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," and the bootblack in "Little Lord Fauntleroy," has again been cast in an outstanding role. He is a jockey in the Warner production "Blood Lines," and it is the most important role Mickey has ever played.

"I like it—its fast, furious and exciting," said Mickey. "I ride a horse called Faithful in the Kentucky Derby and I ride for the Maharajah of India in a race at Ascot, England. Of course I get into all kinds of trouble with race track gamblers but I ride a winner.

"This picture business is a serious affair with me. I am 15 and I have been in it for 11 years. Now a fellow who has followed one track of action for 11 years knows something about the workings of the industry. Three years ago, I made up my mind I was going to be a motion picture director. You see, I've been taking orders all these years and when I am 21, I want to give a few myself. Yes m'am and there's another angle to it. A director has to be a creator, he's got to know people and he's got to be a business man. That's a lot, isn't it? Well, it's a more interesting career than acting, any day. Some people think I'd make a good character man; maybe I would but I'm looking for more 'punch' than that. By the time I'm 21, I'll have all the acting, character or otherwise, I want. Look at Mr. Van Dyke who made "Trader Horn," and a hundred big pictures; he started in when he was a baby and acted for a good many years. He's come up through every branch of the business and there's nothing he doesn't know. Well, I can do the same thing.

"When I get through with "Blood Lines," I'm going to play in "The Devil's A Cissy," with Freddie Bartholomew and Jackie Cooper. That will be something, you bet. Freddie's a swell boy to work with and so is Cooper. I suppose I will be wearing the old clothes, I always do. Yes, if there's a tough guy around, that'll have to be me. That's why I like this part I'm playing now—Snapper Sinclair is his name and oh, boy, does he ride a horse!"

Mary Brian, who has been in England, dancing and singing in Charlot's Revue, recently returned to Hollywood to play in Walter Wanger's "Spendthrift." She has the female lead in a cast which includes Henry Fonda and George Barbier.

"I was glad to get back, but I haven't had a day in which to see my old friends. I went right to work as soon as I got here and now they are cabling me from England to come back when I finish this production. I shall probably go. I like England. I think most Americans do. But the role I am playing now has rather turned my head. It is a dramatic one and quite a change from the light romances I have always played. It's a long way from dancing in a musical revue to drama in a picture. Who knows, perhaps I'll not dance any more."

Leads Skyroom Orchestra

Beginning its summer season tonight, the new Severin Skyroom is to offer the music of Louie Lowe (above) and his orchestra. Complete new decorations and equipment from floor to ceiling, including an Alaskan mural and an outdoor bar, will form a refreshing background for the popular local maestro's band.

He'd Be Funny in Shaw Role, Jolson Admits

Mammy Comedian Aspires to Do Musical Based on Writer's Life.

Times Special

NEW YORK, May 28.—Intent on adding to the gaiety of nations by appearing in a movie musical comedy based on the life of George Bernard Shaw, Al Jolson confirmed the seriousness of his plans to producers here.

"He's funnier than Cantor or me," the comedian said, discussing the famous Englishman. "Such a film could be partly burlesque and partly straight. I want to play Shaw before I quit show business. It would be a swell comedy role."

Mr. Jolson declared that he, too, can utter sentences which will become "Jolsonisms" as Shaw's utterances become "Shavianisms."

"For instance, after reading up on the gentleman, I discovered that he once said, 'I am the messenger boy of the new age.' All I have to say is that when I want a boy I'll do what Cantor does—I'll call Western Union.

"Shaw also said once that dramatically he was the Emperor of Europe. The answer for that one is—'Mammy.'

"Once he said 'I never speak without giving offense to a large number of people.' I got a topper for that one—'The Shaw must go on, and on, and on.'

"And I resent his saying that 'America has the morals and outlook of an eighteenth century village.' He ought to live in the twentieth century.

"I won't say anything about those letters to Ellen Terry, with 'sweetikin,' 'ownest own,' 'ducky' and all that baby talk. They don't need toppers. They're plenty in themselves Shaw 'nough.

"Well, anyhow, its' been a long-run Shaw, and I hope I can keep my picture of the Beard of Rave On running as long. It will be continuous, too."

Program Announced by Youthful Pianist

Tommy Wright, Shortridge High School student and student of Bomar Cramer at the Arthur Jordan Conservatory of Music, is to play a program of piano music at 8:15 tonight in Odeon Hall.

The following compositions are to be heard:

I

Toccata and Fugue, D Minor ..... Bach-Tausig
Sonata, Op. 31, No. 3 ..... Beethoven
Allegro
Allegretto vivace
Minuetto
Presto con fuoco

II

Six Etudes ..... Chopin
Op. 10, Nos. 3, 5 and 1. Op. 25, No. 1
Op. 10, Nos. 6, 9 and 12

III

Tango ..... Turina
Zapateado ..... Turina
Triana ..... Albeniz
Nachfalter Waltz ..... Strauss-Tausig

Needs Animals for Movie

Chester Franklin, director of "Sequoia," is getting ready to gather an assorted collection of animals for another picture tentatively titled "Wilderness."

Dances Before Royalty

Olympe Brandna, petite dancing starlet, appearing in "Three Cheers for Love," has danced before more crowned heads than any girl her age. She is 15.

Morris Family Acclaims Dad

Children Among Parent's Most Ardent Fans.

Times Special

HOLLYWOOD, May 28.—Two of Chester Morris' most devoted fans are right in his own family.

On the set where "Counterfeit," in which he is appearing with Margot Grahame, Lloyd Nolan and Marian Marsh, is being filmed, Morris told how popular he was with his two youngsters, Cynthia, 5, and Brooks, 7.

They went to a Hollywood theater to see a picture in which he appeared, arriving there at 2 in the afternoon. When they didn't come home at 5, the alarmed parents called the theater and found the two were still watching the picture. Another call at 6 and they were still watching.

Finally at 7 Morris asked the theater manager to send the children home. They didn't arrive. Hurrying to the theater at 8, Morris found his two youngsters waiting in hopes of seeing their father's movie for the third time.

Adopt Two Children

George Burns and Gracie Allen, who will start work soon in "Hotel Haywire," are the proud parents of two children—a boy and a girl—adopted at Chicago famous foundling home, The Cradle.

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TONIGHT'S PRESENTATIONS — NEIGHBORHOOD THEATERS

WEST SIDE

STATE — 2702 W. 10th St. — Double Feature — Gene Raymond — "LOVE ON A BET" — "MURDER OF DR. HARRIGAN"

BELMONT — W. Wash. & Belmont. — Double Feature — Clark Gable — "WIFE VERSUS SECRETARY" — Karloff—"THE WALKING DEAD"

DAISY — 2540 W. Mich. St. — Double Feature — Neil Hamilton — "TWO HEADS ON A PILLOW" — Marlene Dietrich—"DESIRE"

NORTH SIDE

RITZ — Illinois at 34th. — Double Feature — Irvin S. Cobb — "EVERYBODY'S OLD MAN" — "GARDEN MURDER CASE"

ZARING'S — Central at Fall Creek — Double Feature — Dionne Quintuplets — "THE COUNTRY DOCTOR" — "PRISONER OF SHARK ISLAND"

UPTOWN — 42nd & College. — Double Feature — John Boles — "ROSE OF THE RANCHO" — "DON'T GAMBLE WITH LOVE"

GARRICK — 30th and Illinois. — Double Feature — Joe Morrison — "IT'S A GREAT LIFE" — "ANOTHER FACE"

ST. CLAIR — St. Clair & Ft. Wayne — Double Feature — Laurel-Hardy — "THE BOHEMIAN GIRL" — "CASE OF THE MISSING MAN"

REX — 30th at Northw't'n. — Lee Tracy — Roscoe Karns — "TWO FISTED" — Paramount News—Betty Boop

TALBOTT — Talbot & 22nd. — Double Feature — Helen Twelvetrees — "THE SPANISH CAPE MYSTERY" — "SONG OF THE SADDLE"

Stratford — 10th & College — Double Feature — Laurel-Hardy — "THE BOHEMIAN GIRL" — Bing Crosby—"ANYTHING GOES"

MECCA — Noble & Mass. — Double Feature — Rochelle Hudson — "THE MUSIC GOES 'ROUND" — Eddie Cantor—"STRIKE ME PINK"

DREAM — 2351 Station — Robert Donat — Jean Parker — "THE GHOST GOES WEST" — No. 4 "THE GREAT AIR MYSTERY"

EAST SIDE

RIVOLI — 5155 E. 10th St. — Double Feature — Irvin S. Cobb — "EVERYBODY'S OLD MAN" — "CHARLIE CHAN AT THE CIRCUS"

EAST SIDE

TUXEDO — 4020 E. New York. — Double Feature — Jack Holt — "DANGEROUS WATERS" — "BROADWAY HOSTESS"

TACOMA — 2442 E. Wash. St. — Double Feature — Frank Parker — "SWEET SURRENDER" — "DANGEROUS WATERS"

IRVING — 5507 E. Wash. St. — Mae West — Victor McLaglen — "KLONDIKE ANNIE" — Comedy—Cartoon

EMERSON — 4630 E. 10th St. — Double Feature — Mae West — "KLONDIKE ANNIE" — "VOICE OF BUGLE ANN"

HAMILTON — 2116 E. 10th St. — Double Feature — Fred MacMurray — "THE TRAIL OF THE LONESOME PINE" — Arlene Judge—"SHIP CAFE"

PARKER — 2936 E. 10th St. — Double Feature — Paul Muni — "THE STORY OF LOUIS PASTEUR" — Shirley Temple—"THE LITTLE COLONEL"

STRAND — 1833 E. Wash. St. — Double Feature — Fred Astaire — "FOLLOW THE FLEET" — Dickie Moore—"TIMOTHY'S QUEST"

ROXY — 2721 E. Wash. St. — Double Feature — EXTRA SPECIAL ATTRACTION

Paramount — 411 E. Wash. — Double Feature — George Raft — "IT HAD TO HAPPEN" — No. 9 "THE GREAT AIR MYSTERY"

SOUTH SIDE

FOUNTAIN SQUARE — Double Feature — Edmund Lowe — "GARDEN MURDER CASE" — Buck Jones—"SILVER SPURS"

SANDERS — At Fountain Square — Double Feature — Ginger Rogers — "IN PERSON" — "VIRGINIA JUDGE"

AVALON — Prospect-Churchman. — Double Feature — Gary Cooper — "DESIRE" — "MAGIC OF MUSIC"

ORIENTAL — 1105 S. Meridian St. — Tonight Only — Ann Shirley — "CHATTERBOX" — Selected Short Subjects

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400 Women's Taffeta SLIPS — Lace trimmed, fitted and straight line models, in tea rose and pink. Size 34 to 44. 29c

500 Men's Deep Tone & Fancy Dress SHIRTS — Navy, Grey, Maroon, Brown, White, Black and Fancy Patterns. 88c — Fast colors, fused collars, full cut and well tailored. Sizes 14 to 17.

600 Pieces of Women's Rayon UNDIES — Including bloomers, stepins, briefs and bloomer panties. Small, Medium, Large Sizes. 19c

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Boys' Summer LONGIES — of nubs, white duck, crash, etc.—with belt to match—6 to 18. 69c

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