

Astaire on Own Feet in Latest Film

Separated from Ginger Rogers in 'Damsel in Distress.'

For the first time in four years, the RKO people are going to let Fred Astaire stand on his own dancing feet. That will be in "A Damsel in Distress," which will be the Indiana's contribution to your pleasant digestion on Thanksgiving Day.

Somehow, this scion of the Omaha Austerlitzes has been tied to someone's apron strings throughout his theatrical career. Fred and his sis, Adele, dancing partners, from the time they were youngsters. But Miss Astaire married a Briton of noble lineage. Soon afterward, Fred found himself teamed with the able, blond and beautiful Miss Ginger Rogers.

Story by Wodehouse

But the RKO people are giving Mr. Astaire plenty of support, just in case his dancing feet should falter on their first solo film flight. For one thing, they have given him a story from the effervescent pen of P. G. Wodehouse. The music is by the late George Gershwin, who composed eight songs for the movie a few weeks before his death. Ira Gershwin, the late composer's brother and collaborator, was responsible for the lyrics.

In the cast are George Burns and Gracie Allen, who will do their best to make everyone forget that Miss Rogers ever was an indispensable part of an Astaire picture. George Noble, the English boy who showed American some new tricks in their own dance music, will have an acting part. Jean Fontaine plays the distressed damsels, and the stage comedian, Reginald Gardiner, is seen as a butler with a penchant for match-making.

It goes without saying that "A Damsel in Distress" will go heavy for dance routines. Fred does some routines with Burns and Allen, who were vaudeville hooters themselves, once upon a time. And he does several solo numbers, climaxing in a drum dance.

Rhythmic Assault

A dozen assorted bass, snare, jingle and other drums, plus a few cymbals and tom-toms, were placed in a U-shaped formation. Mr. Astaire was given a pair of drumsticks and placed amid the percussion section.

Then, if advance notices are correct, the dancer cut loose with hands and feet in a rhythmic assault that lasted for 3 minutes and 57 seconds.

That, except for the slight matter of boy getting girl, winds up Fred Astaire's first single-starring picture. And Fred and the RKO people and Col. Collins at the Indiana all hope you'll like it.

Ritz Boys in Hot Water

Canal Heated as Precaution Against Illness.

HOLLYWOOD, Nov. 22 (U.P.)—Influenza was sweeping the motion picture industry today and as one of the results, the Ritz brothers were working in steam-heated canal waters and being drenched by chill-proof rains.

The Hollywood-Venetian canal in which the three comedians were being ducked among the gondolas was heated to a comfortable temperature. Al Ritz was given a close-fitting rubber suit to wear beneath his clothing. He wore it one scene, came out soaked with perspiration, and took it off.

WHAT, WHEN, WHERE

APOLLO

"Second Homecoming," with Tyrone Power and Shirley Young, at 12:30, 4:03, 7:14, 10:15.

"Fathers," with Jane Withers and Thomas Jackson, at 1:15, 2:32, 6:55, 8:04.

CIRCLE

"Romance, Broadway," with Edward Arnold, Shirley Ross and John Trent, at 12:45, 3:51, 6:55, 10:01.

"The Girl With Ideas," with Wendy Barrie and Kent Taylor, at 11:45, 2:45, 5:55, 8:55.

INDIANA

"Merry-Go-Round of 1938," with Mischa Auer, Alice Brady, Bert Lahr, Jimmy Savo, at 12:40, 3:30, 7:10.

"Girl With Ideas," with Wendy Barrie and Kent Taylor, at 11:30, 2:45, 5:55, 8:55.

KEITH'S

"The Astaire Revue," with Ralph Bellamy, Alexander D'Arcy and Cunningham, at 12:35, 3:45, 6:55.

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ALAMO

"Public Enemy No. 1," with Gene Autry. "Flight from Glory," with Chester Morris.

"Dancers Look! 25¢

Before 9 After 10

Starts Tomorrow Night PAUL COLLINS AND HIS ORCHESTRA Next Sun. Only THE SODA'S Tickets Now On Sale!

INDIANA ROOF

READING OF HOUSEMATE'S SUCCESS



Girls of the Footlights Club read a Hollywood success story about one of their former housemates in this scene from "Stage Door," coming to English's Monday night. Joan Bennett, the star, is second from the left. Others are, left to right, Barna Osterberg, Helen Warren, Pat Donohue, Rosalind Rousten and Edith Tackna. The engagement will be for three nights and a Wednesday matinee.

IN NEW YORK—By GEORGE ROSS

Disney Fan Finds Mickey Mouse in Egyptian Tomb; Expensive Phone Call Sells New Song.

NEW YORK, Nov. 22.—You won't learn much about archeological subjects from this column, but there is one musty matter that you ought to hear. It concerns Prof. Jean Capart of Belgium, one of the world's leading Egyptologists. Well, some time ago the Professor made one of his frequent excursions of Egyptian tombs and, on the walls of one, came upon an item of intriguing interest. It was a stone carving of a Pharaoh's time, and Prof. Capart detected something vaguely familiar about it. He didn't quite know why.

The scene then shifted from the Egyptian catacombs to the Brooklyn Museum whither the professor had gone to deliver a lecture on his recent findings. In the course of his talk, he held a reproduction of the stone carving aloft and confided to his audience that it looked like someone he knew but couldn't place. Then someone rose and exclaimed that the robed figure looked like Mickey Mouse. And it did, surely enough. When Walt Disney was an aspirant of Mickey's Egyptian ancestry, he investigated on his own hook and discovered that, indeed, Mickey could be traced, genealogically to potters around the Pyramids. And that in other stone carvings could be found graven likenesses of Pluto, Donald Duck and others among Mickey's friends.

Prof. Capart has since written a book about the whole thing which he aptly calls "The Story of the Mouse." It is in a lighter vein than his reports on the mummified Tutankhamen whom he helped find.

THESE febrile gentlemen who dictate the policies of Tin Pan Alley rarely do things in the conventional way. Thus, the other day, Vincent Rose got the idea for a new song with the title, "I Kissed You in a Dream Last Night—Do You Mind?" wrote it with a couple of collaborators, and rushed it to Jack Robbins, the publisher.

Mr. Robbins perceived in it immediately a good song for pictures. So he telephoned Bert De Sylva, his producer, in Hollywood, and told him he had a hit coming up. "I'll airmail it," he said.

"What?" screamed Mr. De Sylva. "And waste all that time? Sing it to me right now."

Mr. De Rose cleared his throat and warbled his tune across the continent (at \$3 per minute). "I'll take it," said Mr. De Sylva, and the telephone clicked.

HERE to certain rules of gastronomic etiquette.

So, if you style yourself a gourmet, you must not (1) sip cocktails just before dinner; (2) smoke or during dinner (tobacco blunts the appetite); (3) dine in a hurry; (4) drink beer with your meal; (5) drink water during dining; (6) insult the chef who is supposed to know, to the fractional part of the soupe, how much seasoning was required; (7) drink water during a meal—it robs the palate of all taste.

GENERAL INFO—"Camille" has been banned in Germany—**as retaliation for the ban over** the matinee idol, Jack Buchanan, who had a last-minute parcel of music before embarking for New York, where he was obliged to enter a new show and be familiar with all the songs. But the parcel was delayed in transit and Buchanan was compelled to board without it.

When he radioed the Shuberts and explained that he was songless on the high seas, they seized the phone and asked to be connected with Buchanan's stateroom somewhere in mid-ocean. They inquired if he knew anyone aboard who could take down notes. So they called in their music director and had him dictate from shore to ship, all of Buchanan's vocal selections, at a cost of more than \$300. When Mr. Buchanan reached port, he was conversant with the score of the vehicle which, appropriately enough, happens to be called "Between the Devil."

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THESE gourmets have, at long last, issued an authoritative list of "don'ts" for food fanciers. Merely being on familiar terms with the culinary best, it seems, isn't enough. A true gourmet must do

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"Ambassador," with Ronald Colman. Also, "Love Is in the Air," with June Travis.

ALAMO

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