

THEY'RE COZY FOR DESERT WEAR



J. Carroll Naish, left, and Ray Milland utilized the latest sand masks during the filming of "Beau Geste," now showing at the Circle. Either the bit players in the background don't rate masks or they don't have sinus trouble.

MOVIES

By HARRY MORRISON

Crosby, Cooper and Crawford Starred in Downtown Films.

APOLLO—"The Star Maker," with Bing Crosby, Louise Campbell, Ned Sparks, Linda Ware and Laura Hope Crews. Directed by Roy Del Ruth.

This Man Is News," with Barry K. Barnes and Valerie Hobson.

CIRCLE—"Beau Geste," with Gary Cooper, Brian Donlevy, Robert Preston, Ray Milland, Susan Hayward and J. Carroll Naish. Directed by William A. Wellman.

Death of Champion," with Lynne Overman and Donald O'Connor. Directed by Robert Florey.

LOEW'S—"The Women," with Joan Crawford, Norma Shearer, Rosalind Russell, Paulette Goddard, Mary Boland and Joan Fontaine. Directed by George Cukor.

"6000 Enemies," with Walter Pidgeon, Rita Johnson, Paul Kelly and Nat Pendleton. Directed by George B. Seitz.

LOEW'S

It would be hard to suggest any good training ground but the best way to enjoy "The Women" is to train your ears for high frequency reception, the gags come fast and furious.

Those lucky ones who saw Clare Boothe's play at English's will be delighted to know that the Hay's office politely turned its ear the other way when it censored this one.

The picture is a joy to behold. Bring out the cliches, gents. It's a feast for the eyes, a wow, an ear-tickling, side-splitting farce. It gets to the marrow of all your thoughts about women. It's swell.

Wouldn't Trust Methuselah

Mrs. Arbuthnot, how do you hold a man? Why, get him into your arms.

And who, Mrs. Arbuthnot, among men would you not even trust? Why, Methuselah, of course.

The picture is long, but not near enough. It runs about an hour and three-quarters. There's no dead timber and it comes to a satisfactory close. You should see it twice to get the full flavor of the Boothe-Auta-Love rapid-fire gags.

The picture supports what it's really all about and that's it.

The heroine is doe-like Norma Shearer. She lives in what the catty Rosalind Russell calls a "feo's paradise." She loves her husband, her daughter and she trusts her spouse.

Joan Gets Her Man

Said spouse gets himself involved with Joan Crawford, a perfume salesgirl. Joan gets her man, but Norma knows something about it—until la Russell herself it from a maniac and loses no time in seeing that Norma is wised up.

Norma can't take it. She has it out with Joan, makes a scene, and then goes to Reno.

Norma's husband marries Joan. Meanwhile Norma has made some friends among the women she had never known about. She picks up a few pointers. When she hears through her daughter that papa isn't so happy with his perfumist, she sets out to get him back.

The story is just a good old dog. The girls are growing up, three boys and one of them in love with a little girl.

A jewel represents the family fortunes. They grow up. On the eve of the head of the family's return, the jewel disappears. So do the Gestes, each claiming he stole it. They join and meet in the Foreign Legion.

Then Markoff disappears. The men go back to a childhood play scene in England 20 years before.

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Their fort is attacked by the Arabs. Here's where Markoff has a chance to be brutal. He does it very nicely with deserters kicked out to die without water in the desert and mutineers put down on a diet of bullets.

If you want to find out where Markoff disappeared to, if he were really dead and who stole the jewel, you'll have to see the movie. I'm not going to tell you.

The cast is excellent. Susan Hayward is the girl, though, and girls don't get to say much or do anything in the man's world of the Foreign Legion. She looks all right and one of the Gestes finally gets her.

You probably won't even recognize J. Carroll Naish. At least I didn't.

The most difficult thing about this movie was keeping up its suspense and continuity and the director did a good job. Interesting sidelight: There's practically no change from the other version, even to the dialog. That speaks well for the movies of 10 years ago. Or perhaps badly for the present-day style.

The other film is a starrer for Lynne Overman. It's called "Death of a Champion." It's about a dog show, but don't let that influence you to leave after "Beau Geste."

Mr. Overman is Oliver Quade, the walking encyclopedia who "knows all the answers." With the help of "Small Fry" Donald O'Connor, he solves a couple of murders.

Joan's Acting Excellent

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