

SUNDAY, JAN. 16, 1949

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

PAGE 35

In Hollywood—

Aly Khan's Wife
Rates OscarUnderplays Scene of Year
When Asked About Prince

By Erskine Johnson

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 15—They can award the Oscar for the best underplayed scene of the year to the Princess Aly Khan right now. I doubt whether any actress will be able to equal or even duplicate her placidity when London newsmen asked about her husband, who is vacationing in France with Rita Hayworth.

Said the princess: "I wish they would leave the poor boy alone."

MARTIN RAGAWAY was ready when sub-zero temperatures hit Southern California. He wired me:

"Just saw a sign reading: 'Sunlamp-kissed oranges.'"

Every time I read a column, including my own, these days, Martin Ragaway is saying something funny. In fact, Ragaway is getting more publicity than Gable or Grable and people around town are asking each other, "Who is Martin Ragaway?"

So I asked him, "Who are you?"

He said: "I'm an up-and-coming psycho-neurotic."

THEN he admitted that he's a writer on the Abbott and Costello radio show, that he's been writing jokes for a living ever since he was a New York high school student, and that he's just wild about seeing his name in people's columns. (It's good business.)

He said he was 26 years old and that he broke into show business in radio instead of in the movies "because I was born on the wrong side of the sound track."

HE HAS written jokes for Milton Berle, Phil Baker, Peter Lind Hayes and half a dozen other comedians. At one time he was ghosting Berle's humor column in weekly Variety and writing Baker's radio jokes.

If Baker rejected a joke, he credited it to Berle. If Berle rejected a joke, he credited it to Baker.

"And if it was a really good joke," he said, "I sometimes credited it to myself." Which gives you a rough idea of how rough the joke business can get. But two of Ragaway's classics weren't written for anyone. He just said 'em. He was introduced to Joan Crawford at a Hollywood party and she said: "Haven't I seen you somewhere? Your face is so familiar." Ragaway replied: "That's only because I've seen you in so many movies."

HE WAS talking to Gary Cooper one day and said: "You know, Gary, your job has its disadvantages."

"Why?" said the puzzled Cooper.

"Well," said Ragaway, "how much do you make a week—about \$10,000?"

"Just about," said Cooper.

"And how many weeks a year do you work?" asked Ragaway.

"Oh, about 20," said Cooper.

"See what I mean," said Ragaway, "the work isn't steady."

DON AMECHE is the first major star in Hollywood to go into daytime radio on a five-day-a-week schedule. Every week he showcases 25 talented professionals who have had a long series of tough breaks trying to crash the screen or radio.

As Don says, the program is

Shakespeare
Play Makes a
Good Musical'Taming of Shrew'
Now 'Kiss Me, Kate'

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (UP)—A smooth, ingratiating musical comedy that has Cole Porter's best music and lyrics in several years is "Kiss Me, Kate" at the Century Theater.

Bella and Sam Spewack have woven a story about an acting couple around the Shakespeare play, "Taming of the Shrew."

It is not a sensational book, lacks comedy where comedy possibilities are plentiful, but on the whole it is competent libretto that allows an easy flow of dialogue, song and dancing.

John C. Wilson directed with a sure touch.

Mr. Porter's songs are the highlight. Among those that will join the long list of his other popular works are "Why Can't You Behave?", "Wonderbar," "So in Love Am I" and "Always True to You (In My Fashion)."

Besides there are several clever pieces that can't have much meaning outside the show. They include "We Open in Venice," "I've Come to Live It Wealthily in Padua," "Where's the Special Face," "Where Is the Life That I Led?"

Drake Plays Lead

Alfred Drake, the best musical show leading man in the business, plays the role of a temperamental stage star involved in a unique revival of "The Taming of the Shrew." His leading lady is his ex-wife, a movie star. The back-act is her current fiancé.

The two stars still have a strong feeling for each other but they battle offstage just as they do onstage in the roles of Petruchio and Katherine.

She starts to walk out on the production and he employs a ruse involving a couple of gangsters to make her stay. They wind up reconciled, of course.

Patricia Morison, who made a hit here with Mr. Drake in a show about 10 years ago and then she was more or less ignored, plays and sings the role of the ex-wife with great vigor and charm. It is a pleasure to have her back.

Lisa Kirk stops the show twice with her very torch songs and is a pleasant actress as the other woman. Harold Lang acts and dances engagingly as always.

Pass Up Opportunities

Jack Diamond and Harry Clark register well as the gangsters although the writers passed up opportunities to get the most from them. Others prominently involved include Annabelle Hill, Lorenzo Fuller, Denis Green, Thomas Hofer, Fred Davis and Eddie Sledge.

The dancing is one of the highlights of the show, thanks to the choreography of Hanya Holm. Lemuel Ayers, who is listed as the producer along with Saint Subber, is responsible for the colorful settings and costumes.

Review of Ben Riker

The Women's Society of the Meridian Street Methodist Church will present a book review by Gordon Holland, teacher of the Adult Class and Men's Program leader, at 8 p. m. Thursday at the church.

The book, "Pony Wagon Town, Along U. S. 1890," was written by Ben Riker, local author and book department manager at L. S. Ayres & Co., and deals with the unique occupation of his father, who made pony wagons for the great and near great all over the world.

The Madrigal Singers of Technical High School will also be on the program.

Stokowski to Conduct

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (UP)—Leopold Stokowski will conduct the New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra in an all-Wagner program, with soloists at Carnegie Hall on Feb. 12 for the benefit of the orchestra's pension fund.

Stokowski and Dimitri Mitropoulos have been chosen regular conductors of the orchestra for the 1949-1950 season. Guest conductors will be Bruno Walter, Victor De Sabata and Leonard Bernstein.

"Grayllyn's the Ticket,"

Says Archibald Smith...

This fellow Archie Smith recently checked in at the Grayllyn Hotel for the first time with results nothing short of amazing.

You see, Archie is admittedly a "light sleeper," with strong tendencies toward insomnia.

He says, "I jolly well think there is nowhere near the number of sheep that I have counted trying to get a little shut-eye. I finally doze off. Then some guy drops a sponge in the bath next door. Wham! ... I'm awake again."

Be that as it unhappily may, Archie rested well at the Grayllyn. Showed up next morning looking as fresh as a starched shirt. ... Might have been the lack of traffic din, or might have been your super-fine beds. Went right to sleep and stayed asleep. Feel great—fit as a fiddle.

But be assured that you need not have insomnia to appreciate Grayllyn hospitality. ... Judged by whatever standards you wish, the Grayllyn gives you more for your money. Why not try it next time and see for yourself?

Indiana's Smartest Small Hotel

Grayllyn

HOTEL

1043 NORTH PENNSYLVANIA

Currently Showing at Neighborhood Theaters

Dieting Plagues
Life of ActressMaid Cites Problems
Ann Sothern Faces

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 15 (UP)—The hardest thing about being a movie star is taking that same old orange juice and coffee for breakfast 365 days of the year.

That is the word from Ann Sothern's maid, Marie, who has watched over Miss Sothern's problems for 14 years and finds that keeping away from a doughnut is the biggest.

"She hates to diet," confided Marie, "but she has to. She begs for a piece of toast but I rush her the trade papers and hope she'll forget about it."

Rising Hard for Her

The second biggest problem is getting up in the morning. A movie star usually has to be on the set by 7 a. m.

"She's never late," bragged Marie, "and she always knows her lines."

Miss Sothern is mighty fussy about her clothes and makeup when she's working on a picture. But after she finished acting with Alexander Knox in RKO Radio's "The Judge Steps Out," she went fishing, and then she wore old levis and a faded flannel shirt.

Doesn't Eat Fish

"She'll sit in the sun for hours waiting for a bite," Marie giggled. "But she never eats fish."

Marie said the qualities she most admired in her boss were her sincerity and her poised, easy-going nature.

"She likes to do things the easiest way. She doesn't like to walk and she doesn't like to drive. Always has a chauffeur. She never goes shopping but has clothes brought to the house. She never sees her previews. Instead she talks to her friends for hours until she finds out exactly what they think about a picture. She doesn't like them to fib to her."

Close to home at the neighborhood theaters will be: Robert Montgomery and Bette Davis in "June Bride" (Cinema, Howard and Ritz); Ida Lupino, Richard Widmark and Cornel Wilde in "Road House" (Rivoli, St. Clair, Uptown and Strand); Roy Rogers and Trigger in "Grand Canyon Trail" (Fountain Square, Irving and Rivoli); John Lund and Gail Russell in "Night Has a Thousand Eyes" (Vogue and Granada); and Lew Ayres and Jane Wyman in "Johnny Belinda" (Hamilton and Hollywood).

Neighborhood Theaters

DOWNTOWN
ALAMO—"In Old California" and "Frontier Gal."
AMERICAN—"Mark of the Lash" and "Woman of the Town" plus Laurel and Hardy.
OHIO—"Cheyenne" and "Under Western Stars."
PARAMOUNT—"River Lady" and "The Gangster."
RODEO—"Desperadoes of Dodge City."
AVATON—"On an Island With You" and "My Dog Rusty."
BELL—"Luxury Liner" and "I, Jane Doe."
BELMONT—"Three Musketeers" and "Countess of Monte Cristo."
CINEMA—"June Bride" and "The Counterfeiters."
CORONET—"That Lady in Ermine" and "Cry of the City."

Gay Spirited

Juanita Timmons has the role of gay-spirited Lydia Luby in the Civic Theater production of "All My Sons," showing daily through next Saturday, Jan. 22.

Expect Great
Year for Music

CHICAGO, Jan. 15 (UP)—The American Music Conference in Chicago reported 1948 was a "great year" for music, but that 1949 will be "even greater."

Louis G. LaMair, president of the conference, said greater interest was shown in musical activities in America in 1948 than in any recent year. Musical training in schools increased markedly and many schools added musical instruments to their programs.

Attendance at all types of musical events soared in 1948, and the number of musical organizations also increased, Mr. LaMair said.

Shirley said the thousands of dollars that came rolling in as her pictures set box office records everywhere had nothing to do with her happy childhood.

"My father had a good job and could give us everything children need," she said. "It was movie work itself, with its discipline and fascination and friendly people that gave me the happiest childhood I ever could have had."

Bodfords to Give Piano Concert at DePauw

GREENCASTLE, Jan. 15—Franz Bodfords, pianist, will present a special concert on the DePauw University campus at 8:15 p. m. Wednesday in McHenry Hall.

His appearance is the first of a series of concerto programs to be presented on the campus by the DePauw School of Music. Orchestral parts will be played by Dr. Van Denman Thompson, organist, head of the music school.

Paper Mill Playhouse Ends 42 Week Season

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (UP)—The Paper Mill Playhouse at Millburn, N. J., which presents revivals of musical shows, has just ended another season—one of 42 weeks during which there were eight productions.

There will be the customary layoff until after Lent, with reopening scheduled for April 18.

BELMONT
West Washington & Belmont
TODAY, 1 P. M.—MON. & TUE.
★ Lana Turner—Gene Kelly
★ June Allyson & Van Heflin
★ "THREE MUSKETEERS"
★ "COUNTS OF MONTE CRISTO"

RITZ
1430 N. Main St.
TODAY, 1 P. M.—MON. & TUE.
★ Bette Davis—Robt. Montgomery
★ "JUNE BRIDE"
★ Glenn Ford—Terry Moore
★ "THE RETURN OF OCTOBER"
★ IN GAY TECHNICOLOR

EGYPTIAN
1430 N. Main St.
TODAY, 1 P. M.—MON. & TUE.
★ Jeff McCrea—Francis Dee
★ "FOUR FACES WEST"
★ Charles Laughton
★ "The Spirit of the Law"

THEATRE
1911 W. Morris CA. 1777
CONTINUOUS MATINEE TODAY FROM 1 P. M.
★ George Brent—Jane Powell
★ "LUXURY LINER"
★ "I, JANE DOE"

STAR
THEATRE
1911 W. Morris CA. 1777
TODAY, 1 P. M.—MON. & TUE.
★ "MOTHER WORE TIGHTS"
★ "THE SPIRITUALIST"

IRVING
5500 E. WASH.
OPEN 12:45
★ William Bendix
★ Claire Trevor
★ "BABE RUTH STORY"
★ Roy Rogers & Trigger
★ "Grand Canyon Trail"

CINEMA
19TH AND DELAWARE—RI-770
TODAY & MONDAY & TUESDAY
★ Bette Davis—Robt. Montgomery
★ "JUNE BRIDE"
★ "The Counterfeiters"

CORONET
123 AND VALLEY—WA-999
TODAY & MONDAY & TUESDAY
★ Betty Grable—Doug Fairbanks
★ "LADY IN ERMINE"
★ "CRY OF THE CITY"

MECCA
1310 E. Tenth
TODAY—MON.—TUE.
★ "CANON CITY"
★ "Blondie's Reward"

STATE
5700 W. Tenth
TODAY—MON.—TUE.
★ "MIRACLE OF THE BELLS"
★ "Enchanted Valley"

HAMILTON
TODAY
★ JANE WYMAN ★ LEW AYRES ★ CHARLES RICHARD
★ "JOHNNY BELINDA"
★ "SURRENDER, DEAR"

PARKER
123 E. Tenth
TODAY
★ "WILD HORSE MESA"
★ "ANGELS ALLEY"

UPDOWN
123 E. Tenth
TODAY
★ "WILD HORSE MESA"
★ "ANGELS ALLEY"

ORIENTAL
123 E. Tenth
TODAY
★ "WILD HORSE MESA"
★ "ANGELS ALLEY"

STAND
123 E. Tenth
TODAY
★ "WILD HORSE MESA"
★ "ANGELS ALLEY"

ROAD HOUSE
123 E. Tenth
TODAY
★ "WILD HORSE MESA"
★ "ANGELS ALLEY"

GRAND CANYON TRAIL
123 E. Tenth
TODAY
★ "WILD HORSE MESA"
★ "ANGELS ALLEY"

JOHNNY BELINDA
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