



In Hollywood— Aly Khan's Wife Rates Oscar

Underplays 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 pliancy 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: "Just saw a sign reading: 'Sunbaked 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 comics. 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.

"There's no time limit on a screen kiss. It's the setting and the manner we worry about: As long as they stay on their feet, there's nothing to worry about."

ASIDE to Bogart and Powell: Sonny Tufts, playing his first heavy in "The Crooked Way," slips two gals around all through the film. John Howard is after Ely Culbertson on a television deal to film bridge lessons. The actor has the distribution, Ely has the cards.

TYPECASTING a man g screen writers: Lawrence Lipton, who's just moved into the writing spot on "Alimony," has been divorced three times and was just married again.

"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 Stokowski to Conduct All-Wagner Program

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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.

Graylynn's the Ticket," Says Archibald Smith . . .

This fellow Archibald Smith recently checked in at the Graylynn Hotel for the first time—with results nothing short of amazing.

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."

But as it unhappily may, Archibald rested well at the Graylynn. 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 Graylynn hospitality . . . Judged by whatever standards you wish, the Graylynn gives you more for your money. Why not try us next time and see for yourself?

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LOOK ON SAME SHOW TODAY

MARIA O'DRISCOLL

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LEO CARRILLO

LEON ERROL

HERE

\$1.00, \$1.50.

\$1.50, \$2.00.

Under Western Skies

Graylynn HOTEL

1042 NORTH PENNSYLVANIA

Shakespeare Play Makes a Good Musical

'Taming of Shrew'
Now 'Kiss Me, Kate'

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (UPI)—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 a 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?", "Wunderbar," "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," "Were There That Special Face," "Where Is the Life That I Led?"

Drake Plays Lead

Alfred Drake, the best musical play 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 backer is in her current fiance.

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 Katherina.

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 Morrison, who made a hit here with Mr. Drake in a show about 10 years ago and then was enticed to Hollywood, where 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.

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

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," Marlene 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."

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

Review of Ben Riker Book Scheduled

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.

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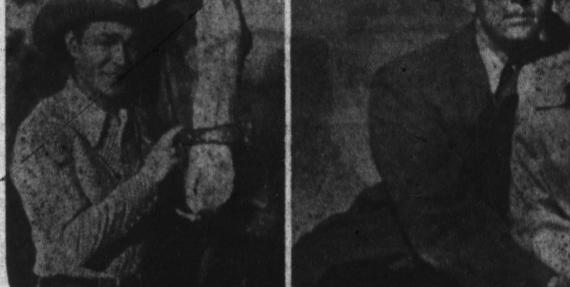
Currently Showing at Neighborhood Theaters



"JUNE BRIDE"



"ROAD HOUSE"



"NIGHT HAS A THOUSAND EYES"

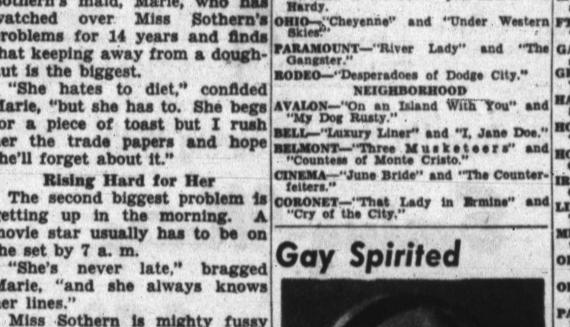


"JOHNNY BELINDA"



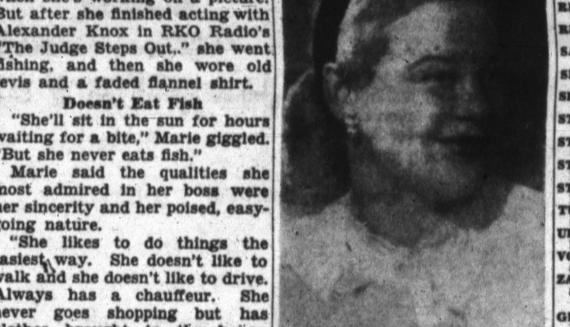
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