

June 1932



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Recommended Motion Pictures

MOTION-PICTURE fare varies, but films of real worth continue to stand out from those of lesser value. We offer a list this month of pictures reviewed by the committee on motion pictures of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, that will provide entertainment for a variety of tastes.

A number of unusually good air pictures have been recently released, among them:

AIR EAGLES (Larry Darnour Production). *In Cast:* Lloyd Hughes, Norman Kerry, Shirley Grey. Two carnival aviators come to a town and are involved in an attempted robbery. One finds his younger brother implicated and dies in a thrilling air chase in order to save him. The action and direction are good. Adults and young adults.

HELL DIVERS (M-G-M). *In Cast:* Wallace Beery, Clark Gable, Dorothy Jordan, John Miljan, Marjorie Rambeau. This superbly directed and acted air picture outranks all others in quantity and quality. Family.

THE LOST SQUADRON (RKO-Pathé). *In Cast:* Richard Dix, Mary Astor, Erich von Stroheim, Joel McCrea. A story of unusual interest of three war aviators working in Hollywood on an aviation picture. Their attempts to resist their wives and their loyal friendship produce a story of love and tragedy that is well worth seeing. Adults and young adults.

SKY DEVILS (United Artists). *In Cast:* Spencer Tracy, William Hand, George Cooper, Ann O'Grady. A light and amusing story of two life guards who go to war and learn to fly. There are some remarkable air scenes and the entertainment value is unusually good. Family.

Among the feature films reviewed are:

ALIAS THE DOCTOR (Warner Bros.). *In Cast:* Richard Barthelmess, Marian Marsh, Lucille LaVerne, Norman Foster. The self-sacrifice of a brilliant young German medical student to protect his brother forms the basis of a convincing story. The background is one of tragedy, but the story ends with a promise of hope and joy. Adults and young adults.

CARNIVAL BOAT (RKO-Pathé). *In Cast:* Bill Boyd, Ginger Rogers, J. H. H. Wood, Fred Kohler. A strong story of the logging camps of Sierra Nevada. It is outdoor melodrama well handled, and deals with the love between a father and son. Good family entertainment.

COHENS AND KELLYS IN HOLLYWOOD (Universal). *In Cast:* Charles Murray, Esther Howard, June Clyde, George Sidney. A sparkling drama done with a note of truth and pathos. Family.

THE CROWD ROARS (Warner). *In Cast:* James Cagney, Joan Blondell, Ann Dvorak, Eric Linden, Guy Kibbee, Frank McHugh. A dramatic romance of high-speed auto racing and a champion driver. Actual racing scenes taken at Ascot and Indianapolis provide the thrills in this story of a famous racer who loses his nerve but reestablishes himself in a great decisive final effort. Adults and young adults.

DEVIL'S LOTTERY (Fox). *In Cast:* Elissa Landi, Ralph Morgan, Alexander Kirkland, Victor McLaglin, Beryl Mercer, Paul Cavanaugh. A mystery play based on an unusual idea and well acted by an able cast. An English lord, who is a keen student of human nature, brings together his country places four of the six wildest and most mysterious prizes. The plot, which includes murder and an accidental death, develops from then on. For those who enjoy mystery stories. Adults.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT (Fox). *In Cast:* Spencer Tracy, Ralph Bellamy, Sam Hays. Another picture that bids for understanding and sympathy for the police of a great city in their fight against organized crime. The story is a vivid one and builds for good citizenship in an interesting and urgent problem. Adults and young adults.

THE FAMOUS FERGUSON CASE (Warner First National). *In Cast:* Joan Blondell, Tom Brown, Adrienne Dore, Vivienne Osborne, Leslie Fenton. A dramatic contrast of the methods used by a clean, conservative newspaper and those employed in yellow journalism. Well done, with strong educational value. Adults and young adults.

THE MISSING REMBRANDT (British Productions). *In Cast:* Arthur Wontner, Ian Fleming, Francis L. Sullivan. A well-portrayed Conan Doyle mystery story, the main plot of which concerns the theft of a Rembrandt from the Louvre. Sherlock Holmes solves matters with his customary ease. Adults and young adults.

GRAND HOTEL (M-G-M). The Vicki Baum novel, that has attracted attention both in book form and as a long-run stage play, has now come to us in picture form. The story is unusual in that no one character dominates, but five are of uniform importance in building the plot. The screen cast therefore is perhaps the greatest ever assembled. Greta Garbo, John Barrymore, Joan Crawford, Lionel Barrymore, Wallace Beery, Lewis Stone, Jean Hersholt. The picture follows carefully the book and play, but because of the weird ability of the camera to accomplish what no other medium of expression can, the audience is able to walk through the hotel, following the action with its own eyes and ears. Adults.

HIGH SPEED (Columbia). *In Cast:* Buck Jones, Lon Chaney, Jr. The adventures of a race-track driver furnish exciting and interesting entertainment. The story is not particularly original or unusual, but it is worked out in a convincing manner and will satisfy the boys especially, because of its speed and action. Good family entertainment.

IT'S TOUGH TO BE FAMOUS (Warner). *In Cast:* Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Mary Brian, Walter Catlett. A delightful satire on the worship given its heroes by the American public. Adults and young adults.

THE MIRACLE MAN (Paramount). *In Cast:* Sylvia Sydney, Chester Morris, Irving Pichel, John Wray. An old story retold with sound. A group of crooks who attempt to exploit the belief of simple people in a faith healer are themselves so convinced by his sweetness of character and simple integrity that they turn from dishonest ways and begin a new life. This is a notable production. Family entertainment.

POLICE COURT (Monogram). *In Cast:* Henry B. Walthall, Leon Janney, Aileen Pringle, Al St. John, King Baggot. Another father-and-son story in which the boy makes every effort to save and re-estate a once-famous father. The entertainment value is fair for adults and young adults.

RACING YOUTH (Universal). *In Cast:* Slim Summerville, June Clyde, Frank Albertson. The basis of this story is the competition between rival automobile companies. The racing scenes are excellent, the photography and direction uniformly good and the comedy enjoyable. Family entertainment.

REBECCA OF SUNSHYBROOK FARM (Fox). *In Cast:* Janet Gaynor, Charles Farrell. Many will remember the silent version of this character played by Mary Pickford. Miss Gaynor makes an equally appealing heroine and we are glad that a new generation of children can enjoy the lovable Rebecca. Family.

THE AMATEUR DADDY (Fox). *In Cast:* Warner Baxter, Marion Nixon, David Landau. A delightful story of a construction engineer who assumes the guardianship of a friend's family in fulfillment of a promise. A picturization of Mildred Cram's Scotch Valley. Family.

SO BIG (Warner Bros.). *In Cast:* Barbara Stanwyck, George Brent, Dickey Moore, Hardie Albricht, Guy Kibbee, Bette Davis. Edna Ferber's charming human story of common folks who face the realities of life with American points of view and without false sentimentality. Dramatic material is lifted into something genuinely powerful by the ability of a fine cast, working under an able director. Family.

STEADY COMPANY (Universal). *In Cast:* Norman Foster, June Clyde, Henry Armetta, Zasu Pitts. The story of a young truck driver with an ambition to become a champion prizefighter. The comedy is genuinely amusing, the romance natural and sincere, the fighting bouts restrained and the ethics wholesome. Family.

THE WET PARADE (M-G-M). *In Cast:* Lewis Stone, Dorothy Jordan, Neil Hamilton, Robert Young, Walter Huston, Wallace Ford. This is the screen version of Upton Sinclair's book, *Wet Parade*, and presents in an honest way the contrast before prohibition and after. The picture synopsis carefully follows the book and neither vindictive prohibition nor urges its repeal. There is an evident attempt to present both sides of the controversial question and to deal with them justly. Family.

WHISTLIN' DAN (Tiffany). *In Cast:* Ken Maynard, Jovayce, Georges Renavent, Don Terry. A good Western story with excellent riding and remarkable scenic effects. It will be enjoyed by all who like an outdoor melodrama full of suspense and mystery. Adults and young adults.

Foreign Films

AMONG the foreign films now appearing in American theaters we find:

The Italian release **RUNACUOH** (Heart Breaker). A light comedy, fairly entertaining, with skilled work by Armando Falconi.

The French film **JEAN DE LA LUINE** (Moon-Dreaming John). A romantic comedy of marital difficulties, well acted and entertaining.

The British film **MY WIFE'S FAMILY**. A very amusing story of an "in-law" mix up, adapted from the stage play of the same name.

STURME DER LIEBENSCHAFT (Tempest). A grim German story interpreted with great dramatic power by that gifted actor Emil Jannings.

THE OFFICE GIRL. An English musical version of the German comedy, *The Private Secretary*, which offers pleasing entertainment.

DAS BLUED IST AUS (The Song Is Over). A Viennese screen operetta, with English superimposed titles, that is clever and charming.

"THEA TANGEL". With Schlusni's Wonder Dog, a well-trained dog is an addition to any story. In this German-language musical comedy, Schlusni gives a remarkable performance. A family picture for those who understand German.

Pictures in the Making

LENA RIVERS, based on the old novel by Mary J. Holmes, is dated for an early release. The cast includes Charlotte Henry, Morgan Galloway, Beryl Mercer and Joyce Compton.

A **SUCCESSFUL CALAMITY** is Mr. George Arliss' new production, and promises to be a worthy successor to *The Man Who Succeeded in Love*. His part is that of a millionaire who pretends bankruptcy to see what his family will do. Fortunately they behave in a way that completely satisfies him.

HAPPY ENDINGS, an original story by Frances Marion, will be Mary Pickford's next picture, which we understand will be made in the East. Miss Pickford returns to the type of story that can be enjoyed by old and young.

STRICTLY UNRELIABLE is the name given the latest comedy in which the amusing Zasu Pitts and Thelma Todd will be featured.

LAWY is Jackie Cooper's next picture, in which he plays the part of a lame boy. *The Sale* is featured with him.

TWO SECONDS is the title of Edward G. Robinson's new film. The picture shows the thoughts that pass through a man's mind during the two seconds allowed him before he dies.

—FRANCIS WHITE DIEHL, *Chairman.*

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