

# Looking at Hollywood with Ed Sullivan

NEW colored photographs of Myrna Loy and Clark Gable, queen and king of the movies, will be found on page one of the picture section of this issue.



(Associated Press photo.)

It was this oriental appearance that gave Myrna Loy her start in pictures. Of late, however, she has been doing quite well, thank you, without impersonating Chinese princesses or slinky half-caste girls.

## Myrna Loy's Escape from China

By ED SULLIVAN

Nita Naldi. When Myrna kept the appointment she learned that Mrs. Valentino wanted her to play the part of a Chinese princess.

Warners saw her in that Nita Naldi picture and decided she was just the type they needed. She reported to Warners and they sent her to the wardrobe department for a Chinese costume.

"Not that I minded at the time," recalled Myrna. "I really got quite a reputation in Hollywood as a half-caste and oriental type. If all the turbans and veils I wore in silent pictures were laid end to end they'd stretch from here to Shanghai. But little did I realize what was going to happen to me. The talking pictures arrived, and then the trouble started. If I were to continue playing Chinese parts and half-caste ladies I had to invent a dialect or guttural accent to go with 'em. The attempt was pretty bad. The gibberish I invented had the studio tearing its hair. So one bright day I was called in and released from my contract. It was all very polite and regretful, but I was through. "Then M.-G.-M. sent for me.

They had a picture about to go in production and they wanted me to play the part of Fu Manchu's daughter. No matter how I tried to get away from it, it seemed that I was destined to go through life a Chinese. 'When Ladies Meet,' I'd say, was the turning point in my career. That gave me my first good straight part and I date everything from that picture with Robert Montgomery and Ann Harding. It took the two of them to get me out of China for good."

I asked her if anybody in her family had preceded her as an actress.

"Mother came closest to it, I guess," she said. "She studied piano at Dr. Ziegfeld's school in Chicago, and she was unusually talented, but marriage interrupted it before she'd become famous."

I asked her where she was born: "It's always struck me as curious that both Gary Cooper and I were born in Helena, Mont. Gary tells that he remembers me as a freckle-faced kid there, and remembers my family, but



A reminder of the time when Myrna was specializing in Chinese roles.



Hollywood, Cal.

IT MAY be ungrammatical, but it is accurate to say that the heathen Chinese almost done in Myrna Loy. In fact, today Myrna even grimaces when she reads of the Sino-Japanese war because it brings back a flood of memories; memories of a movie career that came to an abrupt end. Today the Helena, Mont., girl is the Queen of Movie Stars, the First Lady of Hollywood, but it was only a few years ago that she was called into the front office at Warner Brothers and told politely that she was all through, washed-up.

The Chinese influence started to work when she first came to Hollywood, as a dancer. Her first job, oddly enough, was with a Fanchon and Marco unit at Grauman's CHINESE theater. Here it was that Mrs. Rudolph Valentino, the exotic Natacha Rambova, saw a photograph of Myrna in the lobby and decided that she could use her in a picture she was producing with

for the life of me, I can't recall him in town. Probably he looked a lot different then, whereas my freckles always have been constant."

Talking to her, you are freshly aware of the charm which she projects on the screen. Her nose undoubtedly is the keystone of her success. It is an unusual nose, just as her eyes, misty-gray, are striking to the nth degree. The breeding in her face probably accounts as mightily for her tremendous success as anything else. America accepted her as the charming, sophisticated type of wife because of all these facial assets, and because of the cool reserve of her voice.

She is very thankful for the things that have happened. The night that I presented the Chicago Tribune-New York News

syndicate crown to her at El Capitan theater, she said: "You know, it doesn't seem possible, Ed, that this has happened to me. Just think of it—to be voted the most popular actress on the screen. Why it was right across the street, at Grauman's Chinese theater, that I danced in the chorus for \$30 a week. If any one had told me then that a few years later, across the street, I'd be thanking the radio audience of the country for voting me the First Lady of the screen, I would have considered him insane."

"Thin Man" she rates her favorite picture. Yet this reporter would say that she turned in an equally grand performance, shaded differently, in "Prizefighter and the Lady." In that flicker she played the part of Max Baer's wife, and played it



One of her early roles. As Nubi in "The Squall."

so brilliantly that the observant knew then that she was on her way to stardom. Her only poor performance was in "Parnell," in which both she and Clark Gable were badly cast. They did the best they could with their assignments, but it was a labored process.

On the set of "Test Pilot," which she's completing now with Spencer Tracy and Clark Gable, a lot of teasing goes on between the three M.-G.-M. stars. Tracy, of course, kidded the life out of Myrna and Clark when they won the Chicago Tribune crowns. The next morning, when they appeared on the set, Tracy had drilled all of the electricians and props and gaffers to greet them with "Good morning to the beeyootiful queen and good morning to the Fairie King." He had the wardrobe department send up imitation ermine cloaks and at lunch time three buglers appeared suddenly and blew a resounding blast through silver trumpets.

"Good riddance," said Myrna and Clark, when Tracy, his scenes completed, was leaving the set that afternoon: "That's nice talk," cracked Tracy. "Just remember, my little chickadees, that when I, Spencer Tracy, walk off this set all you have left is 'Parnell.'"

## Voice of the Movie Fan

Letters published in this department should be written on one side of the paper. If you wish a personal reply please inclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Dear Miss Tinée: Will you kindly print an accurate description of the actress Ruth Chatterton?

I have heard so many discussions about her being dark complected and light and what have you? I shall watch hopefully for your description of her and of course your reply will be final with those in question.

Thanking you kindly, I remain, sincerely,

CLAIRE DURAND, Springfield, Ill.

Editor's note: What have we? Well—let's see! Ruth Chatterton has light brown hair and blue eyes.



RUTH CHATTERTON Light brown hair, blue eyes.

Dear Miss Tinée: If you are a Mrs. please pardon the "Miss" in address. Inasmuch as you are read by a wide audience [I hope!] may I suggest that you use a great deal of care in writing your column. Otherwise you may lead astray grammatically and lexicographically [Wow! is there such a word?] the youth of the Mid-west. You misused on Sunday or Monday the word "ingenious-

ness." I am sure you meant "ingenuity." Look them both up and re-read your column, please.

MRS. L. L. PORTER.

Editor's note: I "hope" too! And thanks for your correction. I did mean "ingenuity."

Dear Mae Tinée: Please give me information about George Raft. His height, weight, color of hair and eyes, nationality—and is he married? A FAN.

Editor's note: Height: 5 feet 10 inches. Weight: 155 pounds. Color of hair and eyes: Black hair and brown eyes. Nationality: German and Italian parentage. Married: Divorce is not final. You're welcome.

Dear Miss Tinée: This is in case Hollywood should see it in your Sunday column, Voice of the Movie Fan, should it be there: "Look Here, Hollywood"

Since "Held" made such a charming little movie, why not use other favorite stories from children's books for pictures? Sure, I know it's been done and successfully done, but not half enough. "Captains Courageous," "The Prince and the Pauper," "Anne of Green Gables," "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," "Tom Sawyer," "Huckleberry Finn" and others all fall in that category, but notice the last four aren't recent. There are so many more stories that can be used now instead of the B story material that is used over and over and over for films, especially since you have such a lot of real kid

players. I mean Mary Pickford and Marion Nixon used to take children's parts in "The Five Little Peppers" series, "The Lost Prince," "Peggy," "Understood Betsy" and some I don't recall. These would all make interesting films. Many adults would enjoy these as much as the children.

Sincerely, DORIS MAY.

Editor's note: Are you lookin', Hollywood?

My dear Miss Mae Tinée: I am a constant reader of your column and I enjoy it immensely.

Could you give me a biography of Grace Moore's life. I have seen all of her pictures, and after the end of each picture the audience applauded, which very rarely happens after the completion of a picture. I have had the good fortune of meeting Miss Moore personally, and she was very kind and lovely, and gave me her autograph. [That's more than I can say for most stars.] I hope you'll print this letter, as I want everybody to know how graciously charm-



GRACE MOORE Gracious to an admiring fan.



Myrna and Clark Gable in a passionate scene from "Manhattan Melodrama."