



VIBRANT
KATHARINE
HEPBURN

Vibrant Katharine
Hepburn in a vibrant
pose. "The Little
Minister." Palace.

Former Stars Are Fading out of the Films

Talkies Altered Fates of
Most—Some for Better,
and Some for Worse.

By Rosalind Shaffer.

HOLLYWOOD, Cal. — [Special.] — With the hurry and fun of Hollywood's liveliest holiday season in years fast receding, memories of other seasons prompt a stock taking within the ranks of the stars.

Comparing the present favorites with those of 1929, a period when the talkies had got well into their stride, one finds many stars of five years ago still doing well. Others who were headlines have slipped into the list of those forgotten, or are playing much less important roles in the making of screen history.

Five years ago Richard Barthelmess headed one list of most popular stars. Ruth Chatterton and Greta Garbo tied for second place. Emil Jannings, Douglas Fairbanks, Walter Huston, Norma Shearer, Janet Gaynor, Maurice Chevalier, Evelyn Brent, Ann Harding, Victor McLaglen, and William Powell followed close. Of this list Richard Barthelmess has definitely passed his prime and dropped to a lower place.

Shearer, Gaynor, and Chevalier Keep Box Office Lead.

Jannings does not work in Hollywood, preferring Europe. Huston is barnstorming with the classics and working on Broadway. Evelyn Brent is relatively insignificant in films, spending most of her time in personal appearances. Douglas Fairbanks, with his personal affairs so involved, has slipped a great deal in popularity. Of the others, Shearer and Gaynor remain leaders at the box office, with Chevalier again zooming upward after a lull, "The Merry Widow" bringing him back strongly. [He should thank Jeanette MacDonald.] Ann Harding, though successful in recent stories, is an ill woman and has domestic troubles that hamper her screen career at present. McLaglen keeps busy and is a big money earner, though not the box office star he was with his "Cockeyed World" in 1929. William Powell is in the best spot of his whole career.

Running over a list of best performances in 1929, according to an authoritative rating for that year, month by month, one finds many stars who today have lost their places in films.

Conrad Nagel Attempting Comeback in Murder Thriller.

Betty Compson, named for "Scarlet Seas," makes an independent, only occasionally. She is now in the orient on the same kind of appearances that keep Evelyn Brent hopping about this country. Conrad Nagel deserted films for the stage for several years, but is now trying a comeback in a murder thriller, "Mistaken Identity." "Red Wine" brought him mention as a 1929 leader. Robert Elliott in "Ro-

Chicago Playbills

OPENING:
"Roberta," musical comedy; Erlanger theater; opens tonight.

CONTINUED:
"Ah, Wilderness," with George M. Cohan; moved to Grand Opera house; fifth week.
Dennis King in "Petticoat Fever," comedy; Harris theater; third week.
"Stevedore," drama; Selwyn theater; third week.
Old Globe Theater company in plays by Shakespeare; Studebaker theater; third week.
"Bertha, the Sewing Machine Girl," melodrama revival; Show Boat Dixiana, north branch at Diverser parkway; third week.

COMING:
Abbey Theater company of Dublin, in repertory; Harris theater; opens Jan. 28.
Eva Le Gallienne in "L'Aiglon" and other plays; Grand Opera House; opens Feb. 4.

WEEKLY CHANGES:
Palace theater: Vaudeville and cinema; "Words and Music," revue.
Chicago theater: Vaudeville and cinema; Dave Apollon's revue.
State-Lake theater: Vaudeville and cinema; Lewis and Ames, headliners.

ance of the Underworld" is not in the running today.

Lupe Velez with her "lady of the Pavements" was on the way up five years ago; an occasional film uses the fiery Lupe today. Esther Ralston, mentioned for "The Case of Lena Smith," is back in films at M-G-M after years away on the stage and in vaudeville; she is being groomed for better parts if she catches on in her new contract there.

Doug Fairbanks wowed 'em then with the "Iron Mask," the end of his cycle of romantic, swashbuckling successes. Warner Baxter in "In Old Arizona" skyrocketed to a popularity that stays with him today; his recent release, "Broadway Bill" with Myrna Loy, makes Baxter one of the outstanding male box office figures. Dorothy Burgess, who got a start in the same film that made Baxter memorable as "Cisco Kid," plays subordinate things now and then. Phyllis Haver of "Shady Lady" has been retired for several years. It was her refusal to play "The Blue Angel" with Jannings at the time that forced Von Sternberg to go out and rustle up a gal from a German music hall named Marlene Dietrich.

Stepin Fetchit Returns to Favor in "Judge Priest."

Dorothy Mackaill of "His Captive Woman" has not been seen on the screen for some time. Milton Sills of the same film is dead. Mary Duncan married a New York millionaire and quit films. Charles Farrell is struggling to keep a featured foothold. Bessie Love, once a sensation in "Broadway Melody," retired several years ago. Anita Page is back in town after two years away in musical shows and is married to Nacio Herb Brown. No film work is reported recently. Charles King, also of the "Broadway Melody," never caught on in films after that one. Dorothy Janis of "The Pagan" is heard of no more.

Jeanne Eagels, a sensation in "The Letter," has died. O. P. Heg-

gie, also in that film, goes on steadily as good character actor; in "Anne of Green Gables" fans saw him last and liked him tremendously. Stepin Fetchit, a tremendous hit in "Hearts in Dixie," fell flat after a time and went back to show business only to return to favor with Will Rogers in "Judge Priest" recently. Mary Pickford, making her bid for talkie fame in "Cognique," was a great success of 1929; but she has been relatively inactive for some time so far as the screen is concerned.

Clara Bow Will Probably Make No More Films.

Clara Bow's talkie, "The Wild Party," was a big hit; but today Clara is unimportant in films, has retired and become a mother. Her two last films, attempted as a comeback, gave her little chance to click, and it is questionable if she will make another.

Eleanor Boardman, excellent in "She Goes to War," has been off the screen for several years.

Estelle Taylor, in "Where East Is East," claimed honors from even Lon Chaney and the coy Lupe Velez. The last couple of years have brought Estelle no screen roles; she is touring in vaudeville. Ulrich Haupt of "Madame X" and Claude Allister of "Bulldog Drummond" are heard of no more. Allister is in England, in films. Lilyan Tashman, also of "Bulldog Drummond," is dead. Thomas Meighan of "The Argyle Case" tried a comeback in character work during the closing year. George Bancroft, who was a popular "he-man" star, honored for "Thunderbolt," slipped badly, has been off the screen, but recently attempted a comeback. He may yet make it.

"Rio Rita" "Bebe Daniels' Swan Song—Almost.

Basil Rathbone of "The Last of Mrs. Cheney" is no longer of the Hollywood colony, but is touring with Katharine Cornell and her theater company. Ina Claire in "The Awful Truth" was a hit, though some reviewers and audiences felt the title too apt. She has been off the screen for several years.

Bebe Daniels in "Rio Rita" in 1929 was almost her film swan song. She has spent the last two years in stage and vaudeville work. Lawrence Grey, since "Marianne," has seen little screen fame. Gloria Swanson made a smash hit with her first talkie, "The Trespasser," and has had a varied career since. The dawn of 1935 finds her again a hit in "Music in the Air," and with a lucrative contract to make more. Louise Dresser, honored for "This Mad World," gets little chance today to do the work she is capable of—her Czarina in Dietrich's "Scarlet Empress" was badly miscast, an unfair blow to Louise's real talents.

Marjorie White, the cute little trick, named for her work in "Sunny Side Up" in 1929, returned to the stage when talkies did not offer enough parts suited to her unique talents. Now she is again in Hollywood, though not the bright light she was.

Irene Rich, a hit in "They Had to See Paris," has faded from the films; her last big part was as the mother in "The Champ." She is on the stage now, traveling in vaudeville.

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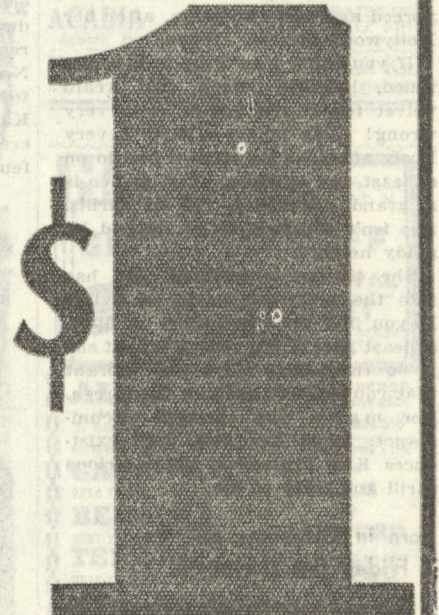
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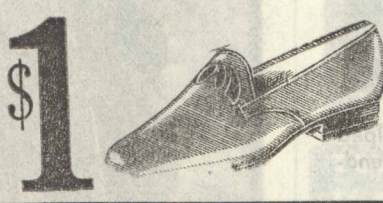


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