

Looking at Hollywood with Ed Sullivan

Hollywood Headache—Who Will Wear Crowns When Garbo, Dietrich Go?



GRETA GARBO . . . "worth her weight in gold."



MARLENE DIETRICH suns the legs that made her famous.



LUISE RAINER . . . "odds-on favorite" for Garbo's throne.

By ED SULLIVAN

Hollywood, Cal.

WHO will take the place of Greta Garbo and Marlene Dietrich in moving pictures when the two most famous European glamor girls have qualified for the old-age pension proposed by Brother Townsend? That is not a rhetorical question; it is a problem which actively occupies the mind of every major studio head in this town, because of the dollar-and-cents importance of the European market. Garbo and "Legs" Dietrich both were worth their weight in gold in the foreign markets, and the prestige of each was so great abroad that M-G-M and Paramount were able to sell other pictures on the strength of their presence on the pay rolls. They had what the industry calls prestige value.

With Miss Dietrich considerably less popular than she was, as a result of bad pictures, and with Garbo often threatening to "go home," the search is on in earnest for foreign glamor girls who can be built up to starring proportions.

At the moment in Hollywood the search has narrowed down to Luise Rainer, Sonja Henie, Danielle Darrieux, Francisca Gaal, Annabella, Ilona Massey, Rose Stradner, Olympe Bradna, Greer Garson, Simone Simon, Gracie Fields, Merle Oberon, and Jacqueline Laurent. Sam Goldwyn had a candidate named Sigrid Gurle (you saw her in "Adventures of Marco Polo"), but Miss Gurle sued for divorce and it was revealed that she came from Sweden via Brooklyn. It is generally agreed that a glamor girl cannot come from Brooklyn, which authors livelier

ingénues on the type of Mae West and Clara Bow, so Miss Gurle is disqualified.

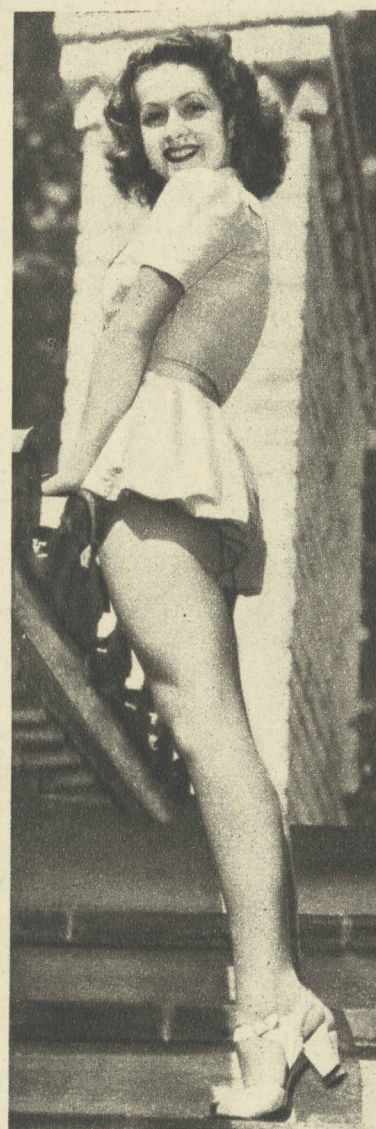
Artistically, of course, Luise Rainer comes closest to the Garbo standard of emoting. Within two years the Rainer lass has twice won the Academy award, and that is making any course in par. In addition she is well liked by audiences, who took to her from the time that she made her picture bow with William Powell in "Rendezvous." Myrna Loy can be credited with an assist on the Rainer girl, because it was as a result of Myrna Loy's sit-down strike that M-G-M gave Luise her chance. There is no telling how far Miss Rainer will go, but it is obvious that she has tremendous possibilities in the emotional field.

In point of appeal, closest to Miss Rainer is Merle Oberon. Yet Merle is difficult to predict. At the very moment when she had scored her greatest success in "These Three" the Oberon eye-fall left for Europe and remained away almost a full year. If she were more serious in her desire to become a great star Miss Oberon would be one of the

At right: Rose Stradner.



At left: Merle Oberon.



(Associated Press photo.) DANIELLE DARRIEUX . . . leading the glamor girl field.

ing glamor girl candidate, and Universal execs already are rubbing their hands in anticipation. As streamlined as Dietrich, who made her picture debut by exposing her legs in "Blue Angel," Miss Darrieux will make much the same entrance. The script identifies her as a French show-girl who has come to New York with the French Casino show, and that identification was written into the story to permit the theater patrons to get an eyeful of her. As if this were not sufficient, in later sequences of the picture she becomes a model and does a disrobing act in Fairbanks Jr.'s office.

...

There has been more interest out here in the debut of Miss Darrieux than in any others of the foreign contingent. This was stimulated by the American showing of "Mayerling," in which she appeared with Charles Boyer and in which she won fine notices. However, you can't always tell from these foreign films, as witness the case of Annabella. This actress scored with American audiences in "Wings of the Morning," but flopped in "Baroness and the



At right: Gracie Fields.



At left: Olympe Bradna.

Butler," which she made here with William Powell. The Twentieth Century-Fox studio has been suspiciously silent regarding Annabella since that picture was released.

Franciska Gaal already has been seen by American audiences in "The Buccaneer," in which she played opposite Fredric March. She wasn't great, but she definitely was very good, and judgment must be post-

poned on her until we see her in another picture. Ilona Massey was seen briefly in "Rosalie," but no verdict can be offered until we see her in "Chocolate Soldier" and "Balalaika" with Nelson Eddy. Rose Stradner you saw in "The Last Gangster" as the Polish wife of Edward G. Robinson.

Gracie Fields, the English girl, recently decorated by the king, is a music hall personality and vaudeville favorite who is the greatest box office attraction in England. I doubt that she can be used for more than three or four pictures, even if her first picture for Zanuck establishes her favorably. Olympe Bradna has been seen in several Paramount films, and she has tremendous personal magnetism. Jacqueline Laurent made her M-G-M bow in the last of the Judge Hardy series. Greer Garson of England has yet to be seen here.

The race, at any event, is on in all seriousness. Betting commissions would install Luise Rainer as the odds-on favorite on her past performances. You can throw out "Big City," in which she was miscast. Second choices, I think, would be Danielle Darrieux and Merle Oberon, coupled in the betting. Third choice would be Sonja Henie, and coupled behind her would be Ilona Massey and Francisca Gaal. The rest might be grouped in the field.

The final decision will be rendered not by guessers like me but by movie fans like you. Performers can be advertised and ballyhooed and exploited, but stars are made by the movie fans and nobody else. The successors to Garbo and Dietrich will be selected by you, and you, and you.



SIMONE SIMON



ANNABELLA



FRANCISKA GAAL



JACQUELINE LAURENT



ILONA MASSEY



SONJA HENIE

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: We would like to know the name of the girl who played the rôle of Polly in "You're Only Young Once." Please give us an account of her life, stating where she was educated. Thank you. B. and M.

Editor's note: Ann Rutherford played the rôle of Polly. She was born in Toronto, Ont., 19 years ago. She's 5 feet 3½ inches tall, weighs 105 pounds, and has black hair and dark brown eyes. Educated in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Her career started at the age of 5 when she appeared in stock with her parents. You're welcome!

Dear Miss Tinée: In your Sunday paper not long ago you published a letter from Louise Young about Nelson Eddy. May I add my plea to hers? In "Rosalie" he was so pitifully miscast! M-G-M should be criticized greatly for allowing any one with Mr. Eddy's ability to appear in such a second-rate show. I hope that all Eddy

admirers will simply flood you with their comments.

I had the great pleasure of hearing and seeing Mr. Eddy here in our small city a number of years ago, and I know that if he had a fair chance he could and would do much better work than "Rosalie" showed. I would like to say much more, but I dare not allow myself to give full vent to my feelings in this matter on paper!

As to the picture "Rosalie" itself, why did they have to spoil all the music by putting jazz and classical together? I enjoy both, but certainly prefer them separately now! Very truly yours,

DORIS A. ROBINSON.

Editor's note: "The rains came and the floods descended."

Dear Miss Tinée: My favorite actor is Tyrone Power, and my favorite actresses are Deanna Durbin, Sonja Henie, and Anne Shirley. But since we have been reading your paper I have seen nothing in it about Deanna Durbin, and I could not stand it any longer, so I just had to write something.

I like Deanna very much. She is a very good singer and actress. I have seen all of her shows, and I save every little picture of her I see. I now have nearly 300. I also have pictures of Anne Shirley, Tyrone Power, and Sonja Henie. By the way, I just saw "Happy Land-

ing" and thought Sonja's acting and skating better than ever before, but why do they put her in such a mixup of romances? She's much too good for that sort of thing. Thanks heaps. Sincerely,

LAURA MAE STEDDOM.

Editor's note: Thank you!

Dear Miss Tinée: The picture "Mayerling" is executed in the best imaginable way, since no one knows the real historical facts—whether the crown prince took his own life or was assassinated.

The archduke in his vexation sought the people who loved him, who understood him—the Hungarians, whom he loved in return. Most of his time he spent in Budapest to forget his sorrow, listening to the beautiful Hungarian music adored.

But why on earth is "Mayerling" dialogued in a foreign language? The beauti-

ful Hungarian songs and music and the noble expressions are chopped up so badly that it is painful to view the picture.

Charles Boyer deserves all the credit. He is a superb actor who makes the picture and is praiseworthy of it.

Yours respectfully,

KATINKA FOLOL.

Editor's note: It didn't seem choppy to me. The picture is a French production, with a French cast—which accounts for the foreign dialog. Mr. Boyer, as you say, is a superb actor.

Dear Miss Tinée: I partially agree with Miss Willemine Phillips that slapstick comedy is being overdone, but not in the movies that she has mentioned. I saw "The Perfect Specimen," and found it very humorous—and not silly.

And what in the name of "heaven help us" has Charlie McCarthy done to Nelson Eddy? Nothing belittling, at any rate. I think they are both swell.

However, the Marx brothers' "A Day at the Races" was overdone to the point of boredom. Although a good show, it would have been better if the film inspectors, or whatever you call them, would have been more liberal with their shears.

I go to a show to enjoy myself. I like to get away from the many tragedies in real life and not to see more of them flashed before my eyes. A weekly reader,

KENNETH L. FORCE.

Editor's note: Miss W. P. please notice!

CHARLES BOYER
Credited with making a success of "Mayerling."