

Private Lives of Hollywood

Tyrone Power and Sonja Henie Survive a "Prop" Romance

By ED SULLIVAN

THE "publicity" romances of Hollywood have been many and varied. A studio has a bright young femme star and a personable young male star. At the suggestion of the publicity department of the studio the young stars make it a point to be seen in all of the Hollywood spots where press photographers are most apt to be found. The studio publicity department pays for the flowers, the dinners, the taxicabs, and all other expenses incurred in such a "romance," and charges it up against the acres of publicity that are thus prodded from the fan magazines and press of the world.

Tyrone Power and Sonja Henie were one of these planted romances, and they got enormous publicity from it. In fact, they also got the plot of "Second Fiddle," in which Tyrone, playing the part of the studio publicity man, insisted on Sonja doing all of the spurious things which the two of them did in real life.

It is very rare indeed that a "publicity" romance finds a happy ending. Tyrone, for instance, wooed Sonja for the publicity department, but privately married Annabella. Sonja Henie is still single and now has reached that box office security which permits her to choose her own Hollywood escorts. When she marries you can make a small bet that she won't wed any of the chaps who were picked for her by the publicity department.

Of all the young stars of the industry few have contributed so much to the night life of the colony as Tyrone and Sonja. You see them at all of the clubs, you see them at parties. They dash to New York, they tour Europe, they go to South America. Tyrone and Sonja are the kind of movie stars that their fans can enjoy. Others may withdraw to their estates and brood, between pictures, on the banks of their swimming pools. Tyrone and Sonja go places, see things. And Miss Henie is one of the best dancers out here.

From the standpoint of the fitness of things, consider Tyrone Power's marriage to Annabella on April 23. It had sparkle and spirit to it. They met, these two, for the first time quite by accident. Tyrone had gone over to the "Baroness and Butler" set to see Walter Lang. Quite casually he was introduced to Annabella. Neither he nor the French girl sensed that little Dan Cupid had pinked 'em.

They met the next time on a phony desert in a phony sandstorm on the back lot of Twentieth Century-Fox while Allan Dwan was directing them in "Suez." It being a physical impossibility to haul his troupe of actors to the Suez canal, Dwan had directed the technicians to build him a desert behind the studio. Sand was hauled up by the carload from the Pacific beaches, and it was on this phony desert that Tyrone and Annabella met and fell in love. The wind machines, simulating a sandstorm, blew the fine particles of sand into Annabella's face and hair and ruined her nails, but nothing could ruin her disposition. Tyrone started paying some attention to the fine little troupier who was taking a beating on the phony desert. Other girls would have cursed and raged at the director, or gone temperamental. Not Annabella. She reveled in the rough going. "By the time the picture ended I was in love," says Ty. "I don't know about her feelings, but she had me talking to myself."

Thus their romance started in picturesque fashion, and it has continued just as colorfully. The next time they met was in South America, at Rio de Janeiro. She had gone there on an English mail packet. Tyrone had flown down via Pan American Airways. She was on her way to Buenos Aires to visit some relatives, but she stayed long enough at Rio to go night-clubbing with

● This is another of Ed Sullivan's revealing stories on the private lives of Hollywood. Next Sunday the ace reporter on the film front will present Joe Bloke and Sally Smirk.

him, and they traveled together to the mountains rimming the city to gaze at the magnificent harbor and city spread out below them. Cincinnati's Mr. Power, with the Rio moon in his corner, persuaded the girl from Paris that they ought to spend the rest of their lives together on the mountain tops of the world.

Four months later they were married quietly on the coast, and since then they've continued to cover a lot of ground in spectacular fashion. They took a belated honeymoon trip to Europe by boat, and returned on a trans-Atlantic Clipper ship. As if that were not colorful enough, no sooner had they landed than Annabella, fearful of war, flew back to Paris to get her young daughter by a previous marriage, and then recrossed the Atlantic by air. In six months Tyrone and his bride have done more traveling than most married couples accomplish in a lifetime.

"After six months of marriage, Tyrone," I asked him, "what do you think of it?" He smiled broadly. "I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world, Ed. It's wonderful. She's wonderful. You know, despite



SONJA HENIE

what others have said on the subject, it seems to me that an actor should marry an actress. There is a sympathy of interests that is not to be discounted. When I come home from the studio I'm often down in the dumps. A certain scene has gone poorly, or I've played a scene badly. Annabella, from her own experience, knows just how I feel. Or if I come home feeling that I'm on top of the world she understands that, too. If she weren't a professional I doubt that she'd have that understanding.

"She has a broad understanding, a grand sense of humor, and we like the same things. You know a fellow is attracted to a lot of girls when he's a bachelor. One attracts him because she's beautiful, another because she's witty, another one because she's poised, another because she plays a good game of tennis. Annabella is all of these things put together."

I asked him if he would insist that his actress wife give up her career on the screen. "Good Lord, no!" he exploded. "I want her to make pictures. In fact, we're looking now for a story that the two of us can do on the screen together. After working with her in 'Suez' I'd like nothing better than another chance to be in a picture with her. She's got plenty on the ball. Her performance in 'Wings of the Morning' was as

charming as anything I've ever seen on the screen; didn't you think so?" I assured him that it was.

They live, these two ideally happy youngsters, in a home on Saltair road in Brentwood which formerly was occupied by Grace Moore. It is convenient to the bridle paths, and both of them like to go horseback riding. Her favorite sport is swimming, and she plays a fair game of tennis and is an expert at backgammon,



ANNABELLA



Miss Henie demonstrates the dramatic effectiveness of her skating act.

at which she beats him consistently.

Blonde and slender, the Parisian girl who stole Tyrone away from a covey of Hollywood beauties who would have loved to marry him does not intend to rest on her laurels. Every day she goes thru a rigorous course of calisthenics to retain that slenderness. In the movies and away from the screen her husband meets a lot of stunners. Annabella intends to be just as stunning as they. Her calisthenics are an insurance policy on her happiness.

While Tyrone and his French bride are living out their first year of marriage in Brentwood, Sonja Henie is concentrating on



Tyrone Power with Norma Shearer in "Marie Antoinette."



Sonja and Tyrone during the days of their publicity courtship.



Miss Henie, left, with another competitor, after winning her fifth Olympic skating title in 1931.

the furtherance of her astonishingly successful career as a movie star. The former Olympic figure skating champion, signed

seen frequently (between pictures) in the local night clubs. When she first came to Hollywood the movie queens put her to disadvantage, but now she is one of the smartest dressers out here. Lee Bowman is her favorite dancing partner, but you can doubt that romance is involved.

Another dancing escort is Vic Orsatti of the agency which handles her business. Currently she has been going places with Chicagoan Alan Curtis.

They say that it is difficult to talk business with her, but let this be pointed out: I know of no performer in the business who has such a deep sense of gratitude and appreciation as Miss Henie. I was one of the first to get on the Henie band wagon when she arrived, and her gratitude for that early championing of her cause is remarkable. All of her friends will attest to that quality in her, a sense of appreciation that is remarkably intense.

The public, which is very shrewd in choosing its stars, had no hesitation in selecting her from the time she made her first picture. The affection of that public has never wavered. They recognize in the smiling, friendly Norwegian miss not only a great champion but also a great person. In five pictures she has grossed \$10,000,000 for her studio, and she is now making her sixth, which will gross at least \$1,000,000 in the domestic market.

Take the Stand, Miss Henie—and You, Too, Mr. Power

QUESTIONS	SONJA HENIE	TYRONE POWER	QUESTIONS	SONJA HENIE	TYRONE POWER
Where and when were you born?	Oslo, Norway, April 8, 1913	Cincinnati, O., May 5, 1914.	Who is your favorite actor?	Don Ameche.	Donald Duck.
Are you married? To whom?	No.	Yes, to Annabella, the actress.	Who is your favorite actress?	Bette Davis.	Katherine Cornell.
What are your height and weight?	5 feet 2 inches; 110 pounds.	6 feet, 162 pounds.	What did you always want to do before you achieved success in the movies?	The stage.	Write, go on the stage.
What stage experience have you had?	None.	California Mission play, "La Golondrina"; "Merchant of Venice"; "Romance" in Blackstone theater, Chicago; "Romeo and Juliet," with Katherine Cornell; "On Stage"; "St. Joan."	What is your favorite type of man or woman?	One with a ready wit and a practical mind.	I have no particular favorite type.
What is your special diet for keeping in condition?	Toast and tea for breakfast, green salads for lunch, and rare steak and vegetables for dinner. I eat sherbets and wafers between when working.	None.	Who is your favorite author?	Selma Lagerloff.	Somerset Maugham (current); Shakespeare.
What exercise do you find most beneficial?	Dancing, tennis, and swimming. Skating.	Bowling and swimming.	Do you believe in dreams? Did you ever have a dream come true?	No.	No.
What is your favorite sport? What sort of creams and lotions do you use?	I use very few beauty aids. I find good soap and water most beneficial.	Football.	Do you believe in hunches? Did you ever follow a hunch to your own advantage? Have you an inferiority complex?	Yes.	No.
What is your favorite beverage? What is your favorite recipe?	Tea. All Norwegian dishes and most American.	Whatever the host serves. Charcoal-broiled steak.	Do you experience strong likes and dislikes upon meeting strangers? What's your favorite current book?	Yes, in two or three business deals.	No.
What is your favorite color? What is your flower? Do you prefer comedy or dramatic roles?	White. Gardenia.	Blue. American Beauty rose.	What's your favorite book of all time? What piece of music brings fondest memories? What stage play impressed you most strongly, and for what reason?	No.	Yes.
In which picture did you most enjoy working? With what actor or actress do you most enjoy working? What is your pet aversion?	Comedy. "Second Fiddle." Caesar Romero. A maudlin woman.	I have no preference. "The Rains Came." Katherine Cornell. "Yes-people."	What is your reaction to adverse criticism on your work?	Only rarely. I've liked most people on sight. "Grapes of Wrath." Andersen's fairy tales. "Afternoon of a Faun."	Yes; snobs and gushy women. "Grapes of Wrath." Bible. "Blue Danube" waltz.
				"Stage Door," because I was and am interested in the stage and this showed me another phase of it.	"St. Joan," because Katherine Cornell starred and it gave me the chance that led to Hollywood.
				Unjustified criticism, of course, irks me, but when it is valid I try to correct my mistakes by working harder.	Criticisms are beneficial. Naturally adverse criticisms hurt, but they also help by mirroring your deficiencies.