

The Daily Movie Magazine

HE WANTED TO SEE HER ACT



So Andrew Knicker Wilson dropped into the Lasky studio to watch his daughter, Lois, rehearse scenes for her latest feature. The camera man saw him and he was forced to "look pleasant."

THE MOVIE FAN'S LETTERBOX

By HENRY M. NEELY

"Marilyn" writes: "There still seems to be a lot of discussion about the merits of 'Wally' and 'Rudy'. Personally I don't see much to discuss about either one of them. 'Rudy' seems like a very likable young fellow who has most of his work ahead of him, while 'Wally' has attained his destination and in a way is an old story, though 'Peter Ibbotson' furnishes an exception which, however, proves the rule. 'For Wally, prior to 'Peter Ibbotson,' had begun to grate on my nerves. I enjoyed his picture immensely because 'dramatic time' is one of my favorite indoor sports, outdoor, alas. 'I am not what you would call a movie fan, although I have my favorites, among whom our mutual affinity, Norma Talmadge, holds first place. 'But then when I think it over, I can't help but feel that Bobe Daniels and Betty Compson share the same honor; shall we call it with the attractive Norma. 'What's become of Eugene O'Brien? I haven't seen him in anything lately, probably my own fault. I like him a lot, except for his early hair. 'Rudy' has acquired locks equal to mine, though in 'The Sheik' they were the outstanding fault. I don't know much about judging faults in pictures, but don't one need to be a 'senior' in the matter, as the farmer said, to tell that. 'Do you know, I believe you've summed up the 'Rudy' Wally affair better than any of your own critical ability, but you have exactly expressed what I wish I had said. Eugene O'Brien, I saw on his way to Hollywood with the 'Sheik' forces. They are moving their studios out there. 'A Kid'—Yes, Tom Brown's 'School Days' would make a cracking picture if it were very carefully and faithfully done, but I'd hate to see it given to some of the producers. They'd rewrite it in no time in some kind of story and everything. I think it would probably make it in California or on Long Island, whereas no country in the whole world can duplicate the unique and beautiful scenery and the quiet people of the White Horse Valley and the towns of Somersetshire. Tourists are trying this trick with 'Lorna Doone' and I'm sure all of us who have been through the famous country will simply hate the picture. No, 'Foolish Wives' was certainly not worth spending a million dollars on and I agree with you that the picture even made less than the sum—except from a box-office viewpoint. 'Just to show there's no hard feeling I'll quote the part of your letter, where you say: 'Most of the actresses known as stars have to be tricked to let a smile come through. Some of these stars are Gloria Swanson, C. K. Young, Alice Terry, and I have directed them all. 'I am in 'The Four Horsemen' Nazimova, Elliott Dexter and Montague Love. 'I'm printing that, hoping that you'll cut it out and save it, and you realize what good artists C. K. Young, Alice Terry, Elliott Dexter and Montague Love are. 'Barbara Clayton was the leading woman in 'The Child' 'That's 'Me,' Lewis Stone was the male lead. There are a number of stars who have their own companies. There's Richard Barthelmess, Norman and Constance Talmadge, Bill Hays, Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford and several others. Yes, both Mary and Jack Pickford have been in pictures more than ten years. Virginia Pearson and her husband, Sheridan Lewis, are still in vogue and have made no definite plans for returning to pictures. 'Flo-er' writes: 'In seeing the 'Colony' I appreciate the effort you are making to get it out of the rut and place it on a higher plane. It has always seemed strange to me that people should continue to ask the same questions over and over, as though the answer given to one person should differ from the one given to another, and I am glad to see that we are getting so many interesting and worthwhile letters.

found her and brought her back to pictures. 'I remember her especially, because she was dubbed 'the girl with the scrambled hair'. Long before girls bobbed their hair all around their heads as they do now, Betty bobbed hers just over the ears, then curled it and made it stick out in a fluff on either side of her head. It was cute and original and suited Betty to a 'T', but 'scrambled hair' is what they called it. 'In the Little Minister' you see some of the comely stuff of which Betty is capable, but in 'Ladies Must Live' I thought she was miscast, although she did very good work even in that picture. 'Ladies Must Live' has been so widely discussed that I will just make this comment: When people say that they didn't know what it was all about, it makes me smile. It was one of those pictures that should make people think, but I do believe that the 'title' had much to do with bewildering many people. The 'title' suggested a comedy, and 'Ladies Must Live' was anything but a comedy. 'However, I love to read the 'Letter-box', and if some of us did not disagree in our view we should all soon die of ennui. That reminds me. During our recent snowstorm two little boys sat back of me in my neighborhood theatre. One was a pink-and-white, fair-haired lad, the other, freckled, red-headed and shaggy like a lion. They were counting their great wealth and speculating just how many pictures they could see with what they had earned. The lights were turned down and the Newsplaters for the coming week were flashed on the screen. First came Wally Reid in 'Rout Free'. Said the 'pink-and-white' one: 'That's—me! Me for Wally Reid.' 'That's—me!' said the shaggy one. Then came Buck Jones. Said 'pink-and-white': 'Shucks! What do they want to have him for? He's no good.' 'Said shaggy one: 'What's a matter with you? Buck Jones no good? Buck Jones is always good.' 'I ought to have made that correction about Betty Compson long ago. Several fans have written in to set me straight, but three letters, like many others, have got buried under the pile into which I dig daily in a desperate effort to catch up. Thanks for fixing it up. 'Marie Dodge writes: 'In tonight's EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER I see that a Harry Brockmeyer wants to know if Jack Holt and Eddie Polo ever played together in a serial called 'Fidelity'. You say you think he must be mistaken, as there is no mention of a serial called 'Liberty' in Holt's biography. Please permit me to correct you. Jack Holt and Eddie Polo did play together in that serial. I do not recall what company produced it, but it was shown in my home town (Newark, N. J.) about five to seven years ago. It consisted of about fifteen or sixteen episodes, and I followed it very closely, never missing one episode. 'Jack Holt played Captain Bob Rutledge, 'Liberty's' sweetheart; Eddie Polo played Liberty's Mexican bandit servant; Raymond Nye played Lopez, a Mexican leader of bandits, all of them very important parts, and Marie Walcamp played Liberty. 'I think it was in that serial that Jack Holt became famous, because right

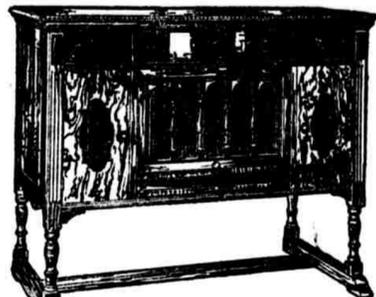
after that he played leads. Now he is starring. He is one of my favorites. In 'Liberty' he did some very fine work and you couldn't help but love him. 'Eddie Polo also did great work in 'Liberty', for right after that serial he starred in 'The King of the Circus', or 'The King of the Circus', as it has been changed. 'Please tell me, is it difficult for you to read my letter? You see, I am foreign-born and never had any schooling in English. What I know I picked up all by myself, and as I have no one to correct my errors, I ask you kindly to excuse my mistakes. I would so like to write often and express my opinion on plays and players, but fear to disgust you, as I can't write English correctly as yet. I'm thirty-five years old, and it is hard to learn when a person is up in years than when she is younger. 'I saw Mary the other day in 'Little Lord Fauntleroy', and I think she was very sweet as 'Dearest'. 'Thanks very much for that information about Jack Holt. I wasn't sure about it myself. By all means, write again. You have nothing whatever to apologize for in your letter. As a matter of fact, it will stand comparison in spelling and grammar with the rest of my mail and is well above the average in clearness and directness of expression and the correct choice of words. If you have acquired all that by your own effort, you are to be congratulated!'

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