

TALKING OF TALKIES.

Swanson-Marshall Affair Goes On

Gloria Swanson's Fifth Husband to be English Actor, Herbert Marshall — Rumours Confirmed — Jean Harlow Shows Methods of Hooking Millionaires in New Talkie.

DESCRIBED, despite her years, as the most fascinating woman in all Hollywood, the already much-married Gloria Swanson is to take her fifth husband. American and British film circles were surprised when it was announced recently that Herbert Marshall and Edna Best, whose marriage has stood like a rock for years while others crashed about them, were to be divorced; the woman in the case being none other than the beautiful Gloria. According to Edna Best, when she arrived in Hollywood from England some weeks ago with her young son, she was met by her husband, who told her frankly that he was in love with Miss Swanson.

"She fascinates me. I can't help it," Marshall declared, according to his wife. "Try and stick by me, dear, for a while. I don't know what is going to happen." Miss Best stuck by, but—still according to her own story—Marshall came to her again, and told her finally that she would have to divorce him, as Miss Swanson had agreed to his proposal of marriage.

"I couldn't stand in his way," Edna Best is reported to have said later. "and so I let him go. I still love him dearly, but what is the use? He is not mine any longer." Mrs. Marshall is obtaining her divorce in England, while Gloria Swanson will be separated from Michael Farmer in America.

Hollywood's fascinating star has a remarkable history. Her first marriage took place in the old Mack Sennett days, when she walked up to the altar with that great actor, Mr. Wallace Beery. Not long afterwards she made her bow to the divorce courts. She then married Herbert Somborn, who held his beautiful wife's affection for a few years. But the Marquis De La Falaise came to Hollywood and Gloria again saw the judge. Her marriage to the Marquis was one of the most spectacular ever to take place in the film colony. But it did not last, at least for long. The Marquis made his next adventure into the matrimonial field with Constance Bennett, while Gloria became Mrs. Michael Farmer. Farmer shared the same fate as Somborn, and many other Hollywood husbands, in being called by his wife's name. Thus, "Mr. Gloria Swanson" was seen at last night's big premiere of —. Such a method of reference has caused several divorces in the film colony.

Incidentally the Mrs. Marshall-to-be has two grown-up daughters. An interesting fact about Herbert Marshall is that he has a wooden leg, although his limp is not very noticeable on the screen.

"RECIPE FOR HOOKING MILLIONAIRE" must just have easily been the title of Jean Harlow's latest film, "Girl from Missouri," which opened at the Wellington Majestic at the week-end. Miss Harlow's appearance in a swimming suit brings

to mind the remark of the famous Hollywood director when discussing a hundred thousand dollar contract for a star: "Believe me, for a hundred 'grand' a girl's gotta be good all over"—and the audience at Miss Harlow's latest film has ample opportunity of discovering that this star measures up to the director's requirements.

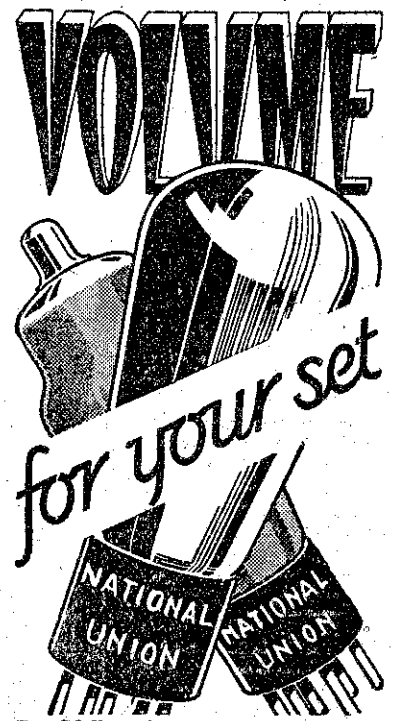


NEW MUSICAL SHOW.—Gladys Moncrieff, the famous Australian soprano, who is now starring in the J. C. Williamson production of "Jolly Roger," a new musical comedy, in Australia. "Jolly Roger" was first produced in London last year, with Evelyn Laye and George Robey in the principal roles; in the Australian production George Wallace is playing the part created in London by Robey.

Franchot Tone and Lionel Barrymore are the principal supporting artists in this entertaining film, which wanders from penthouses in New York to palatial yachts lying off Palm Beach. Jean Harlow is the scheming show-girl who's determined to land a millionaire or bust. Before the wedding bells ring out she finds herself in all sorts of tight corners, but love and virtue are triumphant in the end. Altogether "Girl from Missouri" is a bright and entertaining film, the principals playing their parts in the manner born.

THE New Zealand public has seen and heard many child artists during the past ten years. It is one thing for precocious infants to be schooled into clever imitations of adult dance and patter turns, but it is quite another thing for a child to be inducted into a role involving a psychological study, demanding for its portrayal a very high order of intelligence besides acting talent. This thing, however, has been most successfully accomplished in

the case of little Nova Pilbeam, a child of 14 years who, in the title role of the Gaumont-British picture, "Little Friend," gives an amazingly realistic rendition of the reaction of a child to the surge of unhappy domestic events around her which culminate in an action for divorce. "Little Friend," which will shortly be released in New Zealand, presents a strong, dramatic story and features a powerful all-round cast, including Matheson Lang and Lydia Sherwood. But Nova Pilbeam dominates the whole picture with her characterisation. She discloses an intuitive grasp of the author's intentions which is little short of wonderful. Whether she is silently suffering, through "scenes" between her parents, painful in their cold-drawn bitterness, or whether she is happily concerning herself with her childish joys, she is never other than an unself-conscious little girl, whose very naturalness makes for the "difference" which sets the picture on an entertainment plane of its own.



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