

darful joke. "Only, as I came away from the theatre I overheard one woman say to another, 'Wasn't it silly?'"

Ye gods, when you think of all the tripe we have to swallow, to turn up one's nose at this feast of wit!

"Nothing Sacred." Selznick-United Artists. Directed by William Wellman, starring Carole Lombard, Fredric March. Already released.

"Like A Disease"

DOUBLE-FEATURE programmes are like a disease—they're catching, says Cecil Mason, general manager of Columbia Pictures in Australia and New Zealand, with whom I had a chat the other afternoon.

Mr. Mason said he didn't want to see double-feature programmes become general in New Zealand, but he thought it would be difficult to prevent it. England and America had had to fall into line, and in Australia double-features seemed to have come beyond recall.

"If one could read the public's thoughts, I think one would find that they really prefer single-features and supporting items; but if one theatre is running two features and another isn't, people have the feeling that they are being cheated. We found that in Australia."

Manager's Competition

MR. MASON is making his usual bi-annual trip to New Zealand. This time he has made it coincide with the screening of his company's two pictures, "The Awful Truth" (starring Irene Dunn) and "I'll Take Romance" (Grace Moore's latest). In connection with the Grace Moore picture, Columbia are conducting another competition for theatre managers on similar lines to that for the best exploitation and box-office results on "The Lost Horizon."

Mr. Mason came across on the Awa-tea with Trevor Kerridge, of the Plaza Theatre, Tauranga, who was returning from the trip to Australia awarded him as the prize in "The Lost Horizon" contest.

Picture business has been very brisk through the Australian sesquicentennial celebrations, continued Mr. Mason. "The Awful Truth" broke all records for the Sydney Regent by running for nine weeks. In one day the theatre took £1000.

Columbia's biggest forthcoming picture of the present season is "You Can't Take It With You," a Frank Capra production from the Pulitzer Prize play by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart. Lionel Barrymore is the first member of the cast to be chosen for this brilliant comedy.

Aunt Daisy's Film

ONE activity associated with the departure of Aunt Daisy was the making of a film at Soundcraft Recording Studios, in which there was a good deal of unrehearsed comedy. The speed of movement of Aunt Daisy's bubbling personality was altogether too much for the movie camera to follow, with the result that the part picturing her had to be photographed in slow motion! The film, which was directed by ace New Zealand camera man Lee-Hill, is the first indoor picture to be made in New Zealand.

In it Messrs. C. G. Scrimgeour and Beau Sheil also appear to advantage. It will be screened throughout the Dominion within the next week or so.

On The Ice Again

SKATING season is just about upon us, so "Happy Landing," with Sonja Henie, will probably be the rendezvous both of the blade and roller fans when it makes its South Island premier at the Mayfair Theatre on Easter Saturday. Arthur Price, for several years at the Liberty Theatre, Christchurch, now controls the Mayfair, and is getting a very fair share of the good things—as he well deserves. With "Happy Landing" will be "Nazi Germany, 1938," which caused a diplomatic "incident" in America. This is the sixth of the "March of Time" series.

Perhaps Without Skates

THERE is a possibility that Sonja Henie may some day be asked to give up her skates and launch forth on her own feet as a straight comedy-drama actress.

According to present indications, the studio feels sure that it won't be long before audiences will go to see Sonja Henie whether or not she skates.

That will allow the script writers more altitude in the selection of stories for Sonja. They will not be confined to icy backgrounds, and they can utilise her talents as a light comedian, which seems to be her forte.

"Happy Landing" is Sonja's third film, the two previous ones having been remarkable box-office hits. In her latest she is supported by Don Ameche, Jean Herscholt, Ethel Merman and Cesar Romero.

Can You Spot Him?

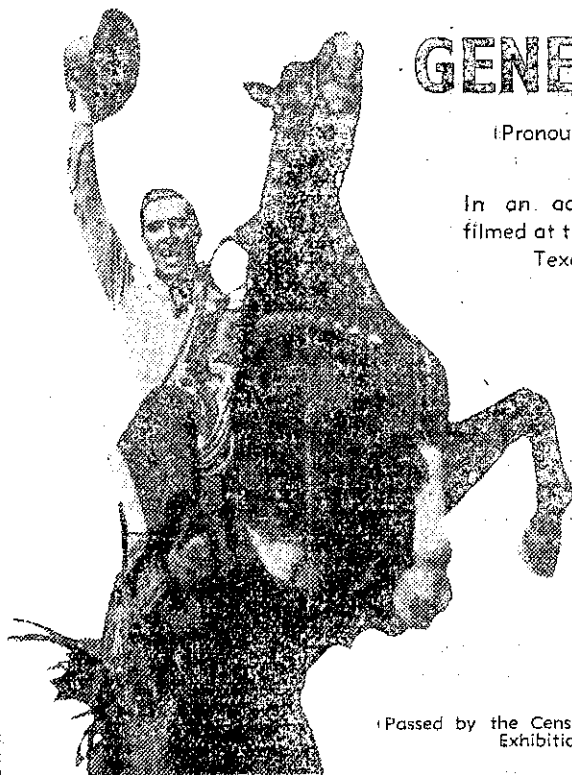
IF you can spare a moment from watching Deanna Durbin, Herbert Marshall and other well-known players in the cast of "Mad About Music," you may be interested to keep an eye open for Leyland Hodson, who was once a well-known J. C. Williamson juvenile lead and who also appeared here with Walter George's revue and similar companies. He also founded "Hoddy's Cafe" in Sydney. It's just a small part he plays in "Mad About Music," but it's Leyland Hodson, all right.

And you may be interested to learn also that the two sisters of Mary McGuire, Australian actress now climbing to stardom in Hollywood, appear among the school-friends of Deanna.

Of course you'll notice that the Vienna Boys' Choir, seen in this country a few years ago, sings the background music of Gounod's "Ave Maria" for Deanna. It's rather a pity they don't sing more.

Commencing: St. James Theatre, Dunedin, on April 8th; De Luxe Theatre, Wellington, April 29th. Leading theatres throughout New Zealand to follow.

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