

Film Record—by Gordon Murray

For Your Collection

*"The Perfect Specimen"**Should Please
Connoisseurs of
Madcap Comedy*

["The Perfect Specimen." Warner Bros. Directed by Michael Curtiz. Starring Errol Flynn and Joan Blondell, with Hugh Herbert, Edward Everett Horton, Dick Foran, Beverley Roberts, May Robson and Allen Jenkins. To be released in Wellington August 19.]



A Good Pet.

IN "The Perfect Specimen," Errol Flynn puts aside his cloak and sword and steps into his first modern comedy. Well fitted physically for his role of a godlike young man, Flynn acts with enthusiasm and easy charm rather than finesse; and it takes Joan Blondell to make this a most enjoyable (though not quite perfect) specimen of light entertainment.

If I am not prepared to assert that Irishman Flynn is one of your really great actors, I certainly am prepared to stand by what I said a few weeks ago about Joan Blondell being very nearly

the neatest comedienne of them all.

She's the extraordinarily fascinating little serpent who invades the twentieth-century Garden of Eden in which Gerald Beresford Wicks is being reared by dictatorial Grandma Wicks as a paragon of all the virtues, fitted in every respect—from higher mathematics to cookery—to take control one day soon of the 10,000 employees who have built up the Wicks fortune of 30 million dollars.

The Fall of Gerald

BUT Grandma has omitted the knowledge of how to enjoy life from the curriculum, and when, with spring in the air and an unholy gleam of mischief in her banjo eyes, Mona Carter (Joan Blondell) comes crashing into the Garden, poor Adam is ripe for the fall. In a very few minutes she has convinced Gerald Beresford Wicks that being a perfect specimen has its drawbacks:

next morning he is to be observed slipping out of the Garden in a hired car, determined to take the serpent's advice and emulate Don Quixote by "tilting at a few windmills."

The serpent joins him in his escape from perfection, having first warned him, however, that she really has two sides to her character. One is represented by "Mona," a comparatively normal and well-behaved girl; to her other self she gives the name "Tilly," who is by no means a perfect specimen of womankind. Frankly, rather a dangerous little hussy.

The hero is quite agreeable that "Tilly" and not "Mona" should be uppermost during his two days off the chain; and, intoxicated by his new-found liberty, he soon sets a pace for indiscretion which leaves even "Tilly" breathless. That boxing is one of his myriad accomplishments is proved when he flattens out a bruiser (Allen Jenkins), and then successfully deputises for him in a bout at a truck-drivers' picnic. (Contd. next page.)