

They Tell Me That...

GINGER ROGERS has been getting out of step with the film world lately. Writers, executives and fellow artists have been complaining about her alleged refusal to co-operate with them, and a growing tendency to take herself too seriously.

Ginger is now managing her own career for the first time. Her mother, who has steered her to stardom, is now in New York trying to establish herself as a play producer. Before she left she negotiated a new contract for her daughter, which calls for a rise in salary and six weeks' holiday between each picture.

I have a great deal of sympathy for Ginger. In the last few years she has probably worked harder

Writers now sit up burning the midnight oil trying to think out snappy "curtain lines" and O. Henry "story twists" to supplant that last, long, lingering clinch that invariably preceded "The End" in nights gone by. So don't start reaching for your hat and edging toward the exit when the end is in sight.

The new form of ending is typified by "Three Loves Has Nancy," in which Janet Gaynor is separated from lover Robert Montgomery through causing him to miss their honeymoon boat by losing her purse.

"Vivacious Lady" closes with a collapsing pullman berth gag and Ginger Rogers walks to the altar with a black eye in "Carefree." In "Unfit to Print," the last you see of Joan Blondell and Pat O'Brien they are engaged in a rough-house scene.

The two best curtain lines I can call to mind, however, are both claimed by vintage talkies: Marie Dressler's remark to Jean Harlow in "Dinner at Eight" and Madge Evans's final line to Robert Montgomery in "Lovers Courageous."

"Let's take a trip round the world," says Montgomery. "No," replies Madge. "Let's stay at home and have a baby."

"Only Film Orders"

A NOTABLE cinematic arrival in New York recently was the German film actress Leni Riefenstahl, who had come for the purpose of launching her official film of the 1936 Olympics. To newspapermen she vehemently denied she was a Jewess, and coyly contradicted rumours that she was Hitler's "girl friend." "I get film orders from Hitler. That is all," she giggled.

Kay Francis For England

ONE pleasant result of Kay Francis's retirement from the screen is that more will be seen of her in England. According to present plans she will spend six months a year in London.

Kay, if she really intends to

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leave pictures (and she has been busy giving "last interviews") will get out with more money than most stars. She has been earning sums in the neighbourhood of \$1000 a week for years and, almost as frugal as Garbo, she has saved most of it. She has never bothered to "keep up a front."

Until she moved recently she lived in a modest bungalow that many a bit player would have considered inadequate. She



KAY FRANCIS
"Just an advertising slogan."

drives a make of car noted for its cheapness and has never employed a chauffeur.

And, all reports to the contrary, she has never spent very much on clothes. The gowns in which she posed for fashion stills were supplied by the studio wardrobe.

The "best-dressed woman" title, she says, "was just hung on me as an advertising slogan."

Directors' Problems

W. VAN DYKE, director of "Marie Antoinette," found himself confronted with all sorts of problems when it came to supervising the large crowds of extras in some scenes. Once he had to stop a scene to tell some

extras that if they had to have chewing gum at least they might keep their rotating jaws still during the shot. Another time he had to pull up was when a girl in the crowd—one of the beautifully-gowned court ladies—bent over and revealed a smart pair of rust-red beach trousers.

Comedians "On Slide"

THE mortality rate among comedians has been high in recent months. With the acquisition of Harry Langdon as his new partner, Oliver Hardy is to embark upon a more genteel type of humour.

The options on the services of

REBUFF

"Garbo Is No Saint Joan"

LOOKS as though Greta Garbo won't get her heart's desire to bring George Bernard Shaw's "Saint Joan" to the screen. Gabriel Pascal, producer of "Pygmalion," says she isn't the type. He is the Hungarian to whom Shaw



GARBO
"Great artist, but—"

has entrusted his filming of his plays, and he recently visited Hollywood to cut "Pygmalion" for its American release. He is also arranging for the production of other Shaw plays, namely, "Saint Joan" and "The Devil's Disciple."

"As I see Saint Joan," he said, "she is a peasant girl who has a great light within which inspires her to lead her men to battle. Miss Garbo is a Hollywood actress—a great artist, mind you, but never Saint Joan. The Maid of Orleans should not be a Hollywood glamour girl nor even a great actress. She should be a simple, real, down to earth peasant without false eyelashes and typical movie make-up."

Milton Berle, Joe Penner and Parkyakarkas have not been exercised by RKO. The team of Wheeler and Woolsey is no more.

The Marx Brothers present a subdued appearance—subdued for them, that is—in "Room Service," and the Ritz Brothers appear to be enjoying a rating slightly under the crest of their popularity.

Even Edward Everett Horton's appearances have become more infrequent. Roscoe Karns has left Paramount after six years.

Seen seldom in outright comedy roles are Vince Barnett, Roscoe Ates, Skeets Gallagher, Jimmy Durante, Raymond Hatton, Frank McHugh, Charles Butterworth, Walter Catlett and Cliff Edwards.



GINGER ROGERS
Managing her own career.

than any actress in pictures. I hope that the present outbreak of temperament is merely a passing phase.

Moreno Returns

ANTONIO MORENO, one of the biggest stars of his time, has hit the come-back trail. The Spanish-born idol of silent days, who has been given a featured role with Gladys Swarthout and Lloyd Nolan in "Ambush" was formerly on the Paramount contract list for five years, drawing one of the biggest salaries then paid by the studio. Among his best remembered subjects were "Mare Nostrum," "The Temptress," "Adoration," and "Romance of the Rio Grande."

In the Gladys Swarthout picture he will play a police inspector. Moreno joins two other former stars in the picture—Raymond Hatton, who plays a storekeeper, and Ethel Clayton, who has a "bit" role.

Others in the cast are Ernest Truex, Brod Crawford, Hartley Tufts, William Henry, William Frawley and Rufe Davis.

Silent Siren

HOLLYWOOD should learn a few new tricks. M.G.-M. has decided that Hedy Lamarr is to be made into a Glamour Queen. And how is it going to be done? You'd never have guessed it: She's going to be given the good old Mystery Build-Up a la Garbo, no interviews, no contact with the common herd and, no doubt, long solitary walks in the rain. It's to be hoped she doesn't catch pneumonia. Also that someone will tell her in time that as a movie commodity Manufactured Mystery and Silent Sirens are as passe as subtitles.

Cutting Kisses

THE close-up final kiss, one of the most terrible conventions of the cinema, has practically vanished from the screen, except in Westerns, that most conservative stronghold of film tradition.

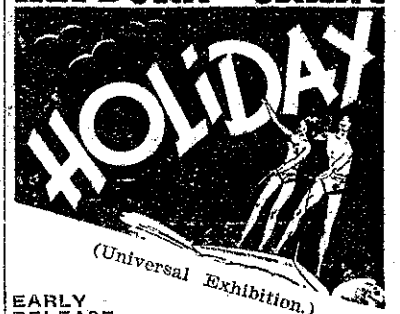


CONSTANCE BENNETT appears with a new star in Universal's comedy, "Service de Luxe," which will be released in Wellington shortly. He is Vincent Price, well known on the New York stage for his role of Albert, opposite Helen Hayes in the well-known play, "Victoria Regina."

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