

They Tell Me That

METRO has a busy programme for Robert Donat, who has demonstrated in "The Citadel" and "Good-bye, Mr. Chips" that, given proper production values, you don't have to go to Hollywood to be a world star.

Donat is scheduled for "Ruined City" and the frequently announced "Beau Brummel."

Donat, whose amazing transition from youth to old age as the



ROBERT DONAT

Seven make-up changes.

English schoolmaster in "Good-bye, Mr. Chips" has won him wide critical and audience acclaim, will have an even more surprising series of make-ups for "Ruined City."

Again he will prove his versatility by covering a span of years with seven make-up changes in the picture, adapted to the screen from the Neville Shute novel, "Kindling."

Donat will have a characterisation of wide range in the story of

Our Special

Correspondent, Jennifer
Quentin, Gives You The
Latest Hollywood Gossip

Struck Oil

IN the interests of screen realism, Universal set up a derrick staffed by a crew from the oilfields for shooting an oil-drilling scene. All went well until, at fifty feet, the drill struck a gusher—of water, putting to flight Freddie Bartholomew, Jackie Cooper, directors, and cameramen.

Cloud-burst

ONE part of the great flood in Twentieth Century-Fox's "When the Rains Came" however, will not be seen on the screen. It was an impromptu piece of realism confined to the studio.

Being one of his most ambitious pictures, Darryl Zanuck had ordered extra magnificent sets, including a £10,000 Hindu palace, as accurate as could be.

A full-strength studio arc-light shone down on the awning of the palace. Above the arc was the giant rain-machine ready to loose the flood.

Studio electricity is hotter than even the Indian sun. The awning, fanned by the breeze, burst into flames.

The rain-machine, made to react to heat, got warmed up before its cue and ejected a cloud-burst which doused the fire before the

Every detail worked like a clock. The scene represented Atlanta, Georgia, railway station after a big battle, when Doctor Meade was helping the wounded and couldn't respond to Scarlett's entreaties to rush to Melanie, then about to have a baby.

Vivien Leigh, as Scarlett, looked marvellous and played the scene without bothering anything about her personal appearance or comfort. The huge set was sprinkled with tons of red tile dust to simulate the red soil of the South. It was choking everybody—Vivien included.

One thousand five hundred extras lay all over the railway lines, mingled with four hundred dummies to represent dead. Only four women on the whole set! In the story the women are all supposed to have left the town. Scarlett, determined not to give up her home, has stayed on with Melanie.

The cameras and photographic crew aboard a large platform were hoisted by the largest obtainable crane to a height of several hundred feet, where they swung perilously over the crowd. Twelve assistant directors, six cameras, and good luck to a scene which cost, for the day, well over £15,000.

Gagging Parson

HAL RAYNOR, gag writer for comedian Joe Penner, has just finished a biography of Sam Dreben called "The Fighting Jew." When not writing radio and film wisecracks, author is known as Rev. Henry Scott



FAMOUS play filmed. Leading parts in M.G.M.'s "Idiot's Delight" are taken by Clark Gable and Norma Shearer (in blond wig).

noisy filmland into spine-chilled ecstasy with Schubert's "Ave Marie" . . . at a fee of 25/- for every note!

Besides showing that Abe Lincoln was not always a perfectly honest fellow, the picture, to my mind, is further proof that, unless cheated of his opportunities, Henry Fonda can become Hollywood's one and only answer to Robert Donat.

Sigrid's Third

SIGRID GURIE, Sam Goldwyn's Scandinavian discovery who proved to be simply an intelligent young lady from Brooklyn, has just completed her third film.

The picture is "Forgotten Women," a Universal melodrama about a girl whose prison record interferes with her married happiness. Universal are so impressed with her work in it that they've given her a five-year contract for two pictures a year.

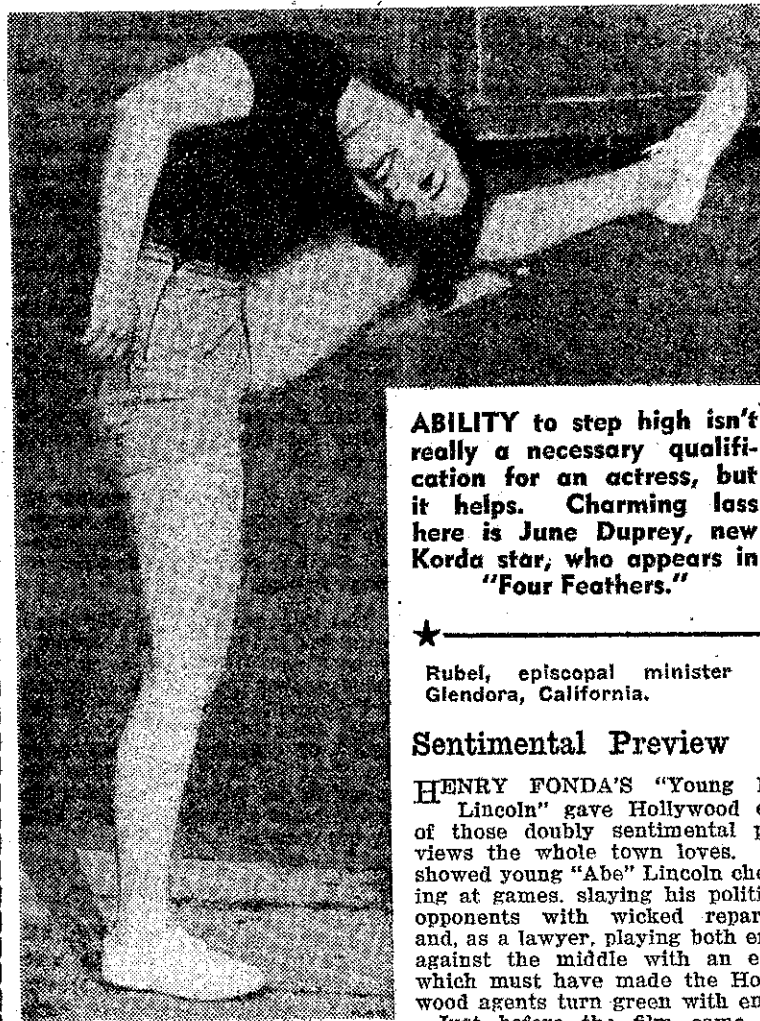
Miss Gurie is partnered by William Lundigan, whose role is possibly the most important of his career. He has done a



SIGRID GURIE
Universal have given her contract.

good deal of nice work in modest pictures, and thoroughly deserves a break.

Another promising young player who gets a chance in this film is Eve Arden. Her best work was done in "Stage Door," as one of the inmates of the theatrical boarding-house.



ABILITY to step high isn't really a necessary qualification for an actress, but it helps. Charming lass here is June Duprey, new Korda star, who appears in "Four Feathers."

★ Rubel, episcopal minister at Glendora, California.

Sentimental Preview

HENRY FONDA'S "Young Mr. Lincoln" gave Hollywood one of those doubly sentimental previews the whole town loves. It showed young "Abe" Lincoln cheating at games, slaying his political opponents with wicked repartee and, as a lawyer, playing both ends against the middle with an ease which must have made the Hollywood agents turn green with envy.

Just before the film came on, Marion Anderson, the famous negro contralto, sang five songs for which Mr. Zanuck paid her \$1400.

Hollywood's coloured people, most of whom were in the kitchens at the time cooking chicken pies or mixing too many mint juleps for the big film star parties which were to follow the preview, ought to be grateful that Abe Lincoln so thoroughly delivered the negroes from slavery as to enable at least one of them to charm

studio firemen had even turned on their hoses.

On the "G.W.T.W." Set

EVERYBODY expects a "super" "Gone With The Wind," and I shall be amazed if, after all the hullabaloo, we do not get one. I paid a visit to the set recently, and saw Victor Fleming, just back after flu and still tottering slightly, handling the biggest crowd I ever saw on a studio set anywhere.

FIRST SHOT

Campaign Against Double-Features

FIRST shots in the campaign against double-feature programmes were fired by Warner Brothers the other week, when they announced that they would sell no further films this season to 300 Pacific Coast cinemas.

Long a controversial issue in internal film industry politics, double-feature programmes, by giving the patron too much for his money, were held to be injurious to the interests of producers.

Step, taken with boldness by Warners, is the first move apart from talk taken by the cinemagates, may presage general scaling down in entertainment value.

a wealthy business man, who becomes interested in a city of unemployed and fights to rehabilitate it, despite all odds, including a prison term.

In "Good-bye, Mr. Chips" Donat had four make-ups, being seen first at 24, then 40, 60 and finally, 88.

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as the fog-shrouded
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