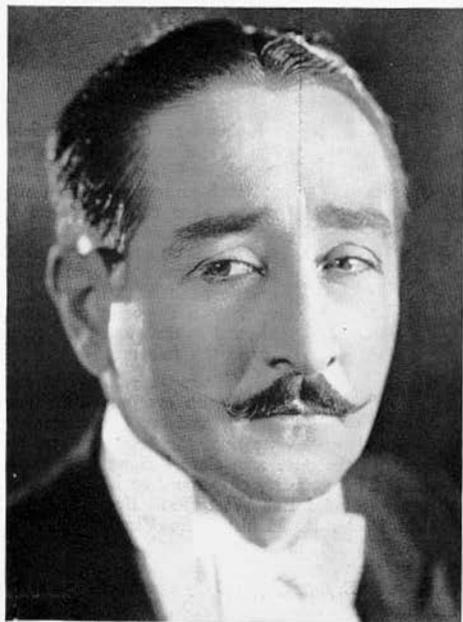


Three
Famous Folk
of the
Movie World



PEGGY HOPKINS JOYCE

Actress of countless divorces, who is appearing now in "The Skyrocket."



ADOLPH MENJOU

The likable villain, hero of many a wicked situation will play in "The Grand Duchess and the Waiter."



RICHARD BARTHELMESS

Who next appears as the Prince in "Just Suppose"—His first appearance in regal costume.



Dorothy Mackaill



Gertrude Olmstead

Trick Clauses in Movie Contracts

By SUMNER SMITH

"WELL, isn't that nerve for you!" exploded a woman who had managed an invitation to a dinner attended by motion picture celebrities.

"Hush," warned her escort. "I'll explain later. It's perfectly all right."

Around the festive board were gathered many of the foremost stars of the screen, met to welcome another star's first visit to New York. The meat course was being served, and one of the guests, a young, very attractive girl, had whispered to the waiter for an extra large portion of potatoes Julienne. Her companion, a middle-aged man, had pushed the waiter on his way and, turning to the girl, had said: "No more than one small helping for you, my dear."

The explanation, the outsider learned, later, was this: The young, attractive girl, a daughter of Ireland, had a flair for potatoes such as reposes only in the hearts of descendants of the Auld Sod. Her figure was trim, the despair of thousands of New York women who visit beauty parlors and exercise before the radio, and her complexion was the acme of perfection.

But this abundant health that she radiated, physical culturists could tell, would some day be her undoing. Like many possessors of the perfect digestion, she was born to be fat. She was a movie star, and her escort was delegated by the company holding her contract to see that she maintained a strict diet. Her contract with this company specified that it could be cancelled if she ate potatoes. On this special occasion she was permitted one portion—and she had tried to get away with a double helping. Hence her companion's action.

One other incident at the dinner especially aroused the curiosity of the woman outside the circle. This occurred before nine o'clock when, very abruptly, a girl and her escort arose from the table during a speech and hurried from the room.

"I think that's very impolite," commented the woman that didn't know movie ways.

"Hush," said her friend. "That girl is working now in a picture, and she has to be in bed before ten o'clock. Her contract specifies it. They all know it here, so she isn't held guilty of any discourtesy."

Whoever originated trick clauses in movie contracts started something that has grown like the famous snowball rolling down hill. There are hundreds of these clauses nowadays, and they specify about everything. Mary Philbin is prohibited from marrying by her Universal contract. Universal, incidentally, after the "Fatty" Arbuckle episode, drew up a "morality" clause that was immediately approved by Will Hays and that has been adopted by most of the other leading companies. One star, Claire Windsor, won a long argument when she had a clause inserted allowing her every July 10 "off." That is the birthday of her son, Billy.

It's about fifty-fifty whether the producing company or the star specifies prohibitions or permissions. The First National Pictures Corporation has limited Dorothy Mackaill, nineteen years old, and one of its shining stars, to a weight not to exceed 130 pounds. The contract runs for five years and can be cancelled when Miss Mackaill exceeds that weight.



Mary Philbin



Joan Crawford

Renee Adoree

Richard A. Rowland, general manager of First National, says:

"This will apply to all our young women stars. In the case of one actress, her company was obliged to devote several months and a great amount of money to bringing her back to her normal weight. I suppose it is the easy life and the reckless way in which the actresses arrange their diets that cause them to grow heavy."

The strange clause in the contract follows:

". . . the artist agrees that she will during the entire term of the contract take diligent care of her health, weight, and appearance so as to render an artistic representation of any roles to which she may be assigned. . . the company may terminate this contract at any time after the weight of the artist shall exceed 130 pounds.

Pauline Starke is very proud of her hands, so her contracts always specify that she is not to be called upon to wash dishes or play golf or do anything in a picture that might injure them. Also, she won't work on Sundays or legal holidays. That is one instance where the artist inserts a trick clause; here is one where the company is the prime mover:

Lew Cody, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer star, enjoys speeding in his car, so his contract states that the top speed he may attain is thirty miles an hour. Lately the company has lost a little faith in the virtue of contracts and has put a governor on Lew's motor.

Gloria Swanson, among many other privileges, has the right to "fire" her assistant director. She exercised it recently in New York when the director was taken ill and Jesse L. Lasky, of Famous Players, wired from the West Coast for the assistant director to complete the picture. In justice to Miss Swanson, it must be said that she claimed inability to continue because of illness, went under a physician's care, and simply fired the assistant director as the easiest solution of her peculiar legal dilemma.

Ramon Novarro is required to run 100 yards in twelve seconds, on request, to prove that he has kept in good physical trim by exercise.

Katherine Bennett can't be called upon to play a part where she must wear a dark wig or dye her hair.

Conrad Nagel "will never dye his hair nor appear as a brunette on the screen."

Carmel Myers must not cut her hair. Evidently movie men believe long hair a necessary attribute of the accomplished screen vamp.

Renee Adoree's contracts must be made up both in French and English, and drawn legally under the laws of both countries. Furthermore, any time that Renee's ankles exceed a measurement of five and one-half inches, her contract is automatically terminated.

John Gilbert, he of the flashing eyes and dashing demeanor, must approve all stories in which he appears and must have three months' vacation each year. (Dyspeptic note: The writer gets two weeks)

George Walsh, the stalwart star, must have gymnasium facilities when on location or on a trip. When he went abroad last year a special gym was fitted up for him on board ship.

Eleanor Boardman must not weigh less than 115 pounds at any time.

Roy D'Arcy shall never be expected to play a part for which he has to shave his moustache unless he is consulted about it.

Gwen Lee must not eat fattening foods while making a picture.

Gertrude Olmsted must be in bed every night before ten o'clock while making a picture.

Joan Crawford, while working, is allowed fifteen minutes extra at noon time for her dancing exercises. She exercises in this manner three times a day.