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Patricia Neal Makes Her Screen Bow

For the past 12 months the name of Patricia Neal has been cropping up regularly in studio publicity emanating from Hollywood. Now, the film-going public here have the opportunity of making her acquaintance on the screen with the showing soon in Melbourne of "John Loves Mary."

THIS film version of a romantic farce that kept Broadway laughing for more than a whole year, marks the screen debut of this tall blonde who made an immediate hit in Hollywood.

She has since attained stardom by virtue of her outstanding performance opposite Gary Cooper in "The Fountainhead," screen version of Ayn Rand's best-selling novel. Between times she went to England for the making of "The Hasty Heart," in which she was teamed with Ronald Reagan, her co-star in "John Loves Mary."

It was an accidental meeting with playwright Eugene O'Neill that really launched Patricia Neal on her career. The Theatre Guild was casting O'Neill's "Milk and the Misbegotten," and Pat was in the process of being turned down for a part when the author walked in. She was amazed next morning to receive another call from the Guild for a reading of the script—directly at O'Neill's request. She didn't get the part, but the Guild, its interest aroused, cast her for an important summer theatre tryout in Connecticut.

Miss Neal was seen in this performance by Lillian Hellman, who signed her for her drama, "Another Part of the Forest," which Broadway later acclaimed. Her role of the beautiful Regina in this was the same character that Tallulah Bankhead made famous in the stage play, "The Little Foxes," and the following story is told about a meeting between the two actresses.

Miss Bankhead dropped backstage one night after the performance to congratulate the budding star. Striding into the dressing room, she said, "Dahling, when you made your exit I turned to my companion and said, 'She's as good as I am,

and, dah-ling, if I had called you only half as good as I was that would've been a whale of a lot of praise."

Patricia Neal has been in the professional theatre only about three years. She was reared in Tennessee, and educated in Chicago, at North-Western University, where she majored in political science.

When she first went to New York to try her luck on the stage, she didn't have much money, and when her funds became really low, she found a job in a restaurant. For three hours every day she cut the luncheon pies—and now she views pies with keen distaste.

In "John Loves Mary," Miss Neal is cast as the English war bride of an ex-war hero, played by Reagan. Other leading roles are taken by Jack Carson and Wayne Morris.

Script Direction Causes Trouble

A simple script instruction resulted in far more action than anticipated during the filming of RKO Radio's "Easy Living."

Lizabeth Scott was directed to register rage and fling a newspaper into the wind from her penthouse balcony.

What really happened was this—

The studio's wind machines blew the paper right back in her face and her dress flared higher than film ethics permit; it scattered the script girl's notes far and wide, tipped over a piece of background scenery, and put stage firemen on the alert as embers were whirled out of director Jaques Tourneue's glowing pipe.

The Title Is Important

Few people outside the film centres realise the effort that goes into finding a title for a motion picture. It is believed—and with good reason—that a title can make or break a film.

A FEW words on a billboard can either intrigue or attract movie-goers—or alternatively can inspire a strong desire to remain at home for a quiet evening.

This is as true with Hollywood's foreign market as on the domestic front, and a tremendous amount of energy is consumed getting the right title for the picture before the film leaves American shores.

One great cause of headaches among Hollywood's official title-changers is the use of phrases or sayings that are popular at home, but do not carry any special significance when translated into a foreign tongue.

A good example of this is to be found in Universal-International's Technicolor "Yes Sir, That's My Baby," which stars Donald O'Connor, Gloria DeHaven and Charles Coburn. Americans and many others remember the song of the same title, but in Brazil, for instance, the phrase means nothing. As a result the film will be released there as "A Vida De Solteiro E Boa"—in other words, "The Life of a Bachelor is Good." The dialogue will be in Portuguese.

On the other hand, film titles do have to be

changed sometimes for the benefit of American audiences. M-G-M's recent production of John Galsworthy's "Forsyte Saga" reached the screen as "That Forsyte Woman"—because the meaning of "saga" was obscure to many.

Sidelights on "Under Capricorn"

Richard Addinsell, who composed the "Warsaw Concerto," has written the musical score for "Under Capricorn," recently completed by Transatlantic Pictures under Alfred Hitchcock's direction. It co-stars Ingrid Bergman, Joseph Cotten and Michael Wilding.

The film is set in colonial Australia of the 1830's. Many of the scenes were filmed in London.

Some fascinating old "props" have been used in the film. In one sequence Joseph Cotten fires a genuine old double-barrelled horse pistol that was manufactured in London in 1825. It was borrowed from a museum for the occasion.

Infantrymen in a sequence featuring a parade of soldiery in Sydney are equipped with the Brown Bess muskets that were fired against Napoleon in the Battle of Waterloo. In the same procession is the coach in which the late King George V used to ride to race meetings at Royal Ascot.

Included in lavish settings are two Gainsborough landscapes valued at over £2000 each, an old Flemish tapestry worth about £5000, and two chandeliers of old English crystal valued at between £19,000 and £20,000.



Ronald Reagan and Patricia Neal, who have the name roles in "John Loves Mary," next attraction at the Plaza Theatre, Melbourne.

Michael Wilding Reached The Top The Hard Way

Tall, handsome Michael Wilding is one of England's most colorful actors because he made stardom the hard way.

WILDING will next be seen in Melbourne co-starring with Anna Neagle in "Maytime in Mayfair," a follow-up to last year's success "Spring in Park Lane." In a recent poll conducted by British exhibitors, he was runner-up to Miss Neagle for box-office attraction among British stars, and the Motion Picture Herald contest in USA placed them top of stars from anywhere. It was the first time in the 14-year history of the poll that British stars had headed the list.

British critics say that one of Wilding's most likeable traits is his "down-to-earthishness." Any sort of pomp or display is utterly foreign to him. He lives in a modest flat and never owned a motor car until a little over a year ago when he bought a secondhand Rolls-Royce. Until then he travelled about by bicycle.

(Bob Hope received third place and headed the "honors list" of American stars, displacing Bing Crosby, who has been rated No. 1 box-office attraction for the past five years.)

Michael Wilding, now rising 38, left home at the age of 17 to roam Europe in search of adventure. In Brussels, Vienna and Paris he made a haphazard living by drawing portrait sketches of cafe and night club patrons for the equivalent of about sixpence each. He then worked in an advertising agency until he tinkered with a gas range and blew up the place.

It has taken him 10 years to reach his present position as cinema idol of Britain. He arrived via extra roles, bit parts, and touring the provinces with stock companies.

His stage and screen debuts were both unusual. In the former he portrayed a housemaid, and for the latter he folded himself almost double to play an old man. He made his first stage appearance in 1934 in "The Ringer," and his London debut at Daly's Theatre in "Chase the Ace" the following year. His first film was "Tilly of Bloomsbury" in 1940. In 1937-38 Michael Wilding

Ocelot Ousted

Dona Drake doesn't want any more publicity given to her menagerie, which includes three cocker spaniels, one parakeet, and a monkey—the latter given to her by Randolph Scott when she signed to appear with him in "The Great Manhunt" at Columbia.

Dona's sudden decision concerning her menagerie came about because of an ocelot (an animal resembling a leopard) which she received from a fan in Chilpanzingo, Mexico—her homeland.

At first Dona was delighted with her new pet, especially when she discovered that it could be house-broken. But her joy was short-lived because the ocelot became insanely jealous of Dona's husband, and finally began snapping at him whenever he came near his wife.

The ocelot went back to Chilpanzingo.



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