

"THE FIREFLY"

(SYNOPSIS)

Nina Maria (Jeanette MacDonald), "The Firefly," a Spanish cabaret singer, is courted by Don Diego (Allan Jones) who does not know that she is a spy, hired by King Ferdinand VII (Tom Rutherford) to trail Napoleon. So when Nina leaves for Bayonne, Don follows her and saves her from a bandit attack.

Arrived in Bayonne, Nina makes love to Maj. de Rougemont (Warren William) learning thereby that he is planning the arrest of King Ferdinand. To prevent this, she appeals to Don Diego, but discovers he is a spy also and trailing her.

Soon after, Ferdinand abdicates and Joseph Bonaparte becomes king. Eventually, Nina gets behind the French lines again and meets de Rougemont. Don, arriving unexpectedly, finds the two of them making love. So he denounces Nina who is to be executed as a spy.

Don begs her to forgive him for doing his duty and Nina, pretending to do so, throws her arms around him, seizes his gun, wounds him and escapes in his uniform. Soon after, Napoleon is driven out of Spain. All barriers now removed, Don is reunited to Nina.

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



Don Diego (Allan Jones), a French spy, falls in love with Nina Maria (Jeanette MacDonald), not knowing that she is a Spanish spy. Nina, however, leaves Don Diego, goes behind the French lines and wins the love of Major De Rougemont (Warren William).



In order to discover French war secrets, Nina Maria (Jeanette MacDonald) makes love to Major De Rougemont (Warren William) but is caught by Don Diego (Allan Jones) who denounces her.



The French army being defeated, however, Nina (Jeanette MacDonald) and Don Diego (Allan Jones) are reunited in their love.

(Scenes from M-G-M's "The Firefly")

Looking Forward with Leo

A counter love affair between two sisters, involving an old sweetheart and a new, forms the background of the forthcoming Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture of the month, "Double Wedding."

The story is based on the original stage success by Ferenc Molnar, who is well-known as the author of "The Swan," "The Guardsman" and "The Play Is The Thing."

The cast is headed by William Powell and Myrna Loy, this being their seventh co-starring production. Powell plays a penniless artist who lives in a raccoon coat and a trailer, and falls in love with Myrna. She is the attractive older sister, who spends her life planning a career. Wise and conscientious, she is unexpectedly emeshed in her own love plans.

"Double Wedding" celebrates the return of John Beal to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. This personable young actor came into prominence for his excellent acting in the stage and screen versions of "Another Language," following these with the part of the minister, with Katherine Hepburn, in "Little Minister." A Missourian by birth, he attended the University of Pennsylvania and started his stage career on Broadway as Frank Craven's understudy.

Florence Rice plays the younger sister role, second in importance to that of Miss Loy's. Miss Rice won noteworthy attention in "Man of the People" and "Married Before Breakfast."

After an absence of two years, Sidney Toler returns to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to play the part of Miss Loy's butler. Usually identified with dramatic roles, he is doing a complete reversal in what is expected to be one of the most hilarious comedy performances of his career, a butler with a policeman's complex and a tendency to spy on everything from people to three-minute boiled eggs.

Mary Gordon has appeared in "Vanessa—Her Love Story," "The Bride of Frankenstein," "Waterfront Lady" and "Laughing Irish Eyes."

That fine character actress, Jessie Ralph, who gave color to "After The Thin Man" as the arrogant widow, will again play a dowager, this time a patrician, in "Double Wedding."

Edgar Kennedy plays the part of an Italian restaurateur and Powell's crony.

Barnett Parker, prominent English comedian, is said to have the best role of his film career as the bookkeeper in "Double Wedding." Parker made his greatest hit in "Born to Dance," and has appeared in "Personal Property," "The Last of Mrs. Cheyney" and "Married Before Breakfast."

"Double Wedding" was produced by Joseph Mankiewicz and directed by Richard Thorpe.

Noteworthy on the list of other new Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer pictures is "Live, Love and Learn," starring Robert Montgomery, and "The Bride Wore Red," starring Joan Crawford.

Bartholomew Tricks Aunt Cissie Into First Airplane Ride

Freddie Bartholomew today took his first airplane ride. And, much to her amazement, so did Aunt Cissie, who had sworn that she never would. But Freddie outguessed her.

At the invitation of Col. William H. Neblett, law partner of Senator William G. McAdoo, Freddie had gone out to the Los Angeles municipal airport to inspect the colonel's two planes and supposedly to take a ground lesson. Aunt Cissie was urged to come in and look at the instruments and the accommodations, which she did, only to discover that in another second or two, she was up in the air.

"Now, tell me you really enjoyed it," grinned Freddie at his aunt.

"Oh, yes, I did," she agreed.

But telling the story later in the day to friends, when Freddie wasn't present, she declared that for forty-five minutes her heart was in her mouth.

Actress Uses Straw Bandeau for Sports

Maureen O'Sullivan, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer actress, has discovered the ideal head covering for active sports.

When playing tennis, badminton, or other such games, Maureen slips a straw bandeau about her curls.

PLAID COAT WEAKNESS

William Powell has a weakness for loud plaid sports coats, which he wears almost constantly when not appearing before the cameras.

BANANAS AND RICE

Florence Rice gained fourteen pounds in two weeks on her banana diet. Twice a day, she ate two bananas, mashed thoroughly, topped with cream and a tablespoon of brown sugar.

INDOOR PUTTING

Rita Johnson believes that practice makes perfect. After joining the Lakeside Golf Club, Rita started playing as often as possible. But she soon found that the long layoff had ruined her putting stroke. Now Rita has rigged up an indoor game which permits her to practice putting in her apartment evenings, after finishing work in M-G-M's "London by Night."

Wear Longies In Mountains, Advises Actor

It is freezing cold at 9000 feet in the High Sierras, as Reginald Owen discovered recently.

Owen came on location to Twin Lakes with M-G-M's "The Bride Wore Red" company, nattily attired in the latest summer resort sport togs.

On the second day, a studio driver going to Bishop for supplies, carried a secret order from Owen.

In a scene that afternoon with Joan Crawford and Franchot Tone, filmed on a mountain road, Owen wore a Tyrolean costume.

"You look fatter, Reggie," said Joan, "than you did when we arrived."

Owen stammered.

"Maybe it's the long winter underwear I'm wearing," he said.

Tin Pan Alley Calls To Mickey Rooney

Mickey Rooney has "arrived" again. This time as a song writer.

He has written the music for six tunes during the past month and they all have great possibilities, according to the tune-smiths Herb Brown and Arthur Freed.

One of them is so good Irving Berlin has consented to publish it. The song is a slow fox trot entitled "Mister Heartbreak." Rooney composed the music while Sidney Miller, the guitar player with Mickey's orchestra, wrote the lyrics. The young actor composed several of his best songs, including "Mister Heartbreak," between scenes of "Captains Courageous."

Gives Up Dancing For Movie Career

Grace Ford, Oklahoma dance instructor, who came to Hollywood seeking jobs for her pupils and landed one herself, today laid aside her dancing slippers for all time.

Miss Ford acted upon the advice of picture directors, who discovered histrionic talent in her, to forget dancing and concentrate on dramatic acting. As a first step toward her new career, the brown-eyed Tulsa lass is portraying a nurse in "Between Two Women."

ACTOR LOSES FIGHTING JOB

Bruce Cabot first aspired to be a prize fighter. He got a job as sparring partner for a second-rate boxer. But when he knocked out his boss, Bruce had to look for a new livelihood.

NO SCHOOL ATHLETE

Glenn Morris, featured in a forthcoming Pete Smith specialty, was not famous as a school athlete. He was an automobile salesman at the time he decided to try out for the Olympic team.

Luise Rainer found, when she arrived in her portable dressing room on the "Emperor's Candlesticks" stage, two hand-painted urns filled with a special blend of tea, a beautiful Chinese robe and a bolt of white Chinese silk—gifts from Mrs. Chiang Kai-Shek, wife of the Chinese Marshal.

SPOT NEWS

Luise Rainer considering the purchase of a "vacation farm" in the East . . . *Freddie Bartholomew* going in for the equestrian sport of jumping . . . *Priscilla Lawson* on a buttermilk diet to lose weight.

Clark Gable, *Joan Crawford* and other stars having to hunt for new places to park their cars . . . because writers' building is being erected in the old parking space . . . *George Cukor* dropping in on the "Conquest" set to visit *Greta Garbo*.

Sophie Tucker jubilant over the first crop from her vegetable garden . . . *George Murphy* going around in a fog . . . really, for his scenes in "London By Night" require it.

Rosalind Russell preparing to move into the English Colonial home she has just purchased, giving up her idea of taking an apartment . . . *James Stewart* showing his mother and sister the sights of Hollywood, before taking them to Arrowhead for a week.

Charles Boyer turning into a butler the other day when he set the table for the "Conquest" set . . . for technical purposes only, of course . . . *Myrna Loy* on a shopping tour looking for materials in her favorite blue.

Robert Benchley making the first of eight miniatures to be completed during the year . . . *Cecilia Parker* planning to spend part of her vacation in her own trailer . . . The interest of many important scientists in the filming of the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture, "Radium" because of the danger and fascination of the subject.

Eleanor Powell planning to make a dancing tour of the world after completing her work in "Rosalie" . . . *Della Lind* purchasing a new home in Brentwood . . . *Madge Evans* is the first Hollywood actress to have a charm necklace . . . *Eddie Quillan*, featured player in "London By Night," is an expert golfer . . . held an important championship at Lakewood for two years.

Jeanette MacDonald

Philadelphia was the birthplace of Jeanette MacDonald. When she was fourteen, Ned Wayburn engaged her for his *Demitasse Revue*.

Later she played small parts in "Irene" and "Tangerine." When featured in "Fantastic Fricases," Henry W. Savage noted her ability and signed her for minor parts.

Some time after, Ernest Lubitsch came across her screen tests and engaged her to appear opposite Maurice Chevalier in "The Love Parade."

From that time on, she has been a screen celebrity, scoring enormous hits in "Naughty Marietta," "Rosa Marie" and "Maytime."

In her newest picture, "The Firefly," she is supported by Allan Jones and Warren William.