

BRITISH STUDIOS

Peeps Behind the Screen

Shaw with Alliance.

Harold Shaw has been working at the Alliance Studio for the past week on a screen version of Helen Protheroe Lewis' novel "Love and the Whirlwind," which he is making for Alliance. The cast for this picture is a fairly large one, and includes Clive Brook, Marjorie Hume (who has just finished with Gaumont, for whom she has been appearing as Lady Byron in "Byron"), Frank Goldsmith (an Englishman who is well known for his work on the American screen), Arthur Cullen, Edward O'Neil, Buntly Foss, Agie Bramford, Wyndham Guise, Reginald Fox, and Doris Campbell. Jo. Sternberg is assisting with the production, and Phil Hatkin with photography. Mr. Shaw speaks highly of Harley Knoles, who has made things very comfortable for him at the studio. There is no rush methods or quibbling over expense, and Mr. Shaw is fortunate in having as his supervisor a man who thoroughly understands his business.

Stage Work.

Joan Morgan is now appearing under André Charlot's management in "A to Z," the revue at the Prince of Wales. She intends to devote more of her time to the stage than has hitherto been the case, and will, for the time being, relinquish her screen work.

At Isleworth.

Fred Paul is still busy on the new British Super Film production "The Faithful Heart," which features Owen Nares and Lilian Hall Davies. The other members of the cast are the same people who appeared in the stage version—in fact, the cast of the screen version of the play is identical with that of the stage version apart from the two leads, which on the stage were played by Godfrey Tearle and Mary Odette.

Crisp's Next Production.

It has now been given out that Donald Crisp has gone over to International Artistes and is to remake "Lark's Gate." This picture will be the first of a series of Donald Crisp productions, which he intends to produce without featuring any big star.

Master Film Operas.

"Fra Diavolo" is the title of the latest Master Film opera, and is being made by Challis Sanderson. The cast comprises Gordon Hopkirk, Lionelle Howard, Vivian Gibson, and Tony Fraser, whose work as the deformed Chinaman in "Cocaine" was favourably commented on by the critics. E. J. Collins is now casting for "Don Juan." The cast of "Lily of Killarney," which Challis Sanderson has just completed, includes Miriam Merry, Bertram Burleigh, Booth Conway, and Betty Farquhar.

Kenelm Foss III.

Kenelm Foss is lying seriously ill with a bad attack of pneumonia. At the time of writing the doctors are exceedingly anxious about his condition, as his temperature has varied from 104° to nearly 105° for the past few days. Visitors are strictly forbidden, and it is thought that some time will elapse before he is able to attend to business again.

Another Producing Venture.

Rumour is busy around Torquay and district that inquiries have been made by a British producing concern respecting the acquirement of a large mansion, standing in picturesque and well-wooded grounds commanding a wide outlook over Babbacombe Bay, and known as The Daison. This residence, which was at one time in the occupation of the late Potts Chatto, whose name is identified with the publishing firm of Chatto and Windus, is one of the largest houses in the district, and has been untenanted for several years. Scenes in the neigh-

bouring villages of St. Marychurch and Babbacombe—now within the borough boundary and forming suburbs of Torquay—have already figured prominently in several of Stoll's and other British productions.

Quality Started Again.

Quality Films is at work on its fifth production under George Cooper, and is utilising the Bertram Phillips Studio for this picture. "The Thief" is the title of the film, and the cast includes Malcolm Tod, Molly Adair, Ray Raymond, and Harry Worth. For the last few weeks the company had ceased production activities, but it is now starting out with the same producing staff as before, which includes Randal Terreaneau as cameraman and Sydney Folker as studio manager.

A Contradiction.

H. B. Parkinson, of Master's, wishes to contradict the rumour that he contemplates closing down. He is still at work upon the "Tense Moments from Great Operas" series, the three directors continually at work upon them.

In Comedies.

Flora Le Breton is to be featured in a two-reel comedy to be made by Edward D. Roberts. The film will be called "The Cause of All the Trouble," and will be made at Barker's Studios at Ealing. Work has not yet started, as it has not been definitely decided who the leading man will be.

Back from Germany.

George Dewhurst, who left the Continent recently to study conditions in the motion-picture industry, returned from Germany last week. "Everywhere," says Mr. Dewhurst, "German studios are being worked night and day. The capacity of every motion picture plant is taxed to the utmost, and in many instances the companies cannot find sufficient accommodation for their own people. It was an eye-opener to see how busy every company is, and no matter where I went I was treated with the utmost courtesy. Shortly I hope to be associated with a project which I think will be of tremendous interest, not only to myself and those connected with the film industry, but to the public generally."

His Ambition.

Maurice Thomson, one of the youngest of the budding English stars, although only just out of school, has quite a long record of successful parts to his credit. "The Fifth Form at St. Dominic's" gave him his first big chance, and after seeing him in this the same producer engaged him for the part of Froggy in "Froggy's Little Brother," after which Maurice played an important part in "Meg's Children." Shortly he will be seen in another British film. At the moment he is busily engaged in improving his knowledge in engineering. It is his ambition to become a film producer and to specialise in films dealing with engineering feats which have helped to build British history.

Awaiting Recovery.

Since the release of her recent film "Trapped by the Mormons," Evelyn Brent has received dozens of letters from picturegoers all over the country expressing their views on the film. Unfortunately Miss Brent, who is now in a nursing home in the Surrey hills, has been too ill to attend to any correspondence for weeks past. Daily letters arrive, and there now await Miss Brent's recovery and attention some eight hundred.

A Quick Holiday.

Bromie Davenport, who has been appearing in the latest George Clark production, "Boy Woodburn," is now taking a short holiday in France. He has a number of



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contracts to fulfil shortly, so that his holiday will necessarily be a very short one.

Casting.

Fred Le Roy Granville is at the minute casting for his first production for British International "The Price of Silence." The film is to be made in Northern Africa and in Great Britain.

A Few Weeks More.

"Byron" is now in the last stages, only a very few scenes remaining to be filmed in order to complete what promises to be a very big film production. Last week Marjorie Hume finished her contract to appear as Lady Byron in the film, and is now playing in "Love and the Whirlwind" for Harold Shaw. Seen above is Mary Clare, who is portraying a very important role in "Byron"—that of Lady Caroline.

Filming Princess's Presents.

The honour of arranging the whole plans for a Pathé Frères film record of Princess Mary's wedding presents as they lay on exhibition at St. James's Palace has fallen to Denison Clift. By the express desire of the King, arrangements were made whereby, for the first time on record, film cameras were allowed within the walls of St. James's Palace. Clift was given every facility he required for the making of this film. The actual filming of the presents took a whole day, for amongst the hundreds of beautiful gifts arrayed for exhibition to the half-million people who have seen them during the past eight weeks Mr. Clift found it difficult indeed to make a selection of those which would most interest the picturegoers of the world. In order to obtain the best results for this noteworthy film, special lighting had to be installed in the five rooms in which the presents are displayed. Under the direction of Silvano Balboni, two motor-lorries were installed near the Palace, which supplied the light for two sunlight arc lamps and a series of powerful spot lights. The wedding-present record strikes a new note in British films, for not only will it give every villager the opportunity of seeing the gifts at the cost of a cinema seat, but it will give the whole world the chance of seeing something which would otherwise have been denied them—for no newspaper account, no still photograph, no poem, could ever convey the impression which Denison Clift has endeavoured to convey through this film.