

Hollywood Reporter

By Mike Connolly

Mike's Thursday Mailbag
Dear Sir: What's the real low-down on the romance between Linda Christian and Glenn Ford—and how CAN she when she's married to Edmund Purdom?—Dorothea Meyerhoff, Boston, Mass.

Dear Dorothea: They like to see their names in the newspapers. Believe it or not, Glenn's press agent phoned me to say Glenn got a telegram from Linda, as follows: "I'm not kidding—drop dead! (Signed) Linda." Anything goes these days, it seems, as long as you get your name in print.

Dear Mike: How is the betting going for the Oscar race now? Who are the favorites? I'm personally rooting for Peter O'Toole and Geraldine Page to take the acting honors—and for "Lawrence of Arabia" as best picture.—Marion Loucks, Aberdeen, Md.

Dear Marlon: Your movie choice is a shoo-in for the No. One Oscar. As for your other selections, it's neck-and-neck between Anne Bancroft and Miss Page—and between Gregory Peck and O'Toole.

Hey, You—Quit thumping those publicity tubs for such no-talent tykes as Jody McCrea. Give us some news of his father, Joel McCrea. Now THERE was a hunk of man, not to mention a fine actor.—Barbara Pitney, Montgomery, Ala.

Dear Barbara: Joel will make his comeback in "The Actor," an adaption of Niven Busch's novel. His co-star will be Ginger Rogers, with whom he previously paired in "The Primrose Path." Happy?

Dear Sir: I'd like some information on Al Jolson—his birthdate, is he living, any living relatives, any biographies?—James L. Reed, Visalia, Calif.

Dear James: Al died on Oct. 23, 1950. He had no children. He was divorced from Ruby

Keeler. His widow, Erle, is now married to screenwriter Norman Krasna. His brother wrote a book about Al, as I recall, and you'll probably be able to find out about it from your public library.

Dear Mike: You wrote that Polly Bergen is giving up singing to concentrate on acting. I don't believe it. I used to sing with a band years ago. I quit to get married. I often get the yen to go back to it, so I know nobody ever gives it up with a snap of the fingers, just like that, especially when she has it MADE! Come off it, man—Kay Fisher, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Dear Kay: Polly herself gave me the story. Now she tells me she's coming out with a long-play album called "Act One, Sing Too." I bow my head. I plead forgiveness. I had only the lady's word to go by.

Sir: I have never heard so many conflicting announcements about the movie castings for "The Unsinkable Molly Brown." One day it's Shirley MacLaine, next it's Debbie Reynolds, then Doris Day, then the original star of the stage show, Tammy Grimes. Let's get the suspense over with.—Richard Owen, Green Bay, Wis.

Dear Richard: After all is said and done, it'll be The Unsinkable Debbie Reynolds.

Dear Mike: I have heard some pretty disturbing rumors that Audrey Hepburn and Mel Ferrer will call off their marriage. Can this be true? In the past I have always depended on your column to give me clear, honest information, and I know you won't fail me now.—Warren Stevens, Peoria, Ill.

Dear Warren: It's been touch-and-go for the Ferrers but it looks like they've got it all patched up now. Sorry I can't be more positive but that's the way it goes with those things—and I'm sure it's the same in Peoria as it is in Hollywood.

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