

Hollywood Reporter

By Mike Connolly

Mike's Thursday Mailbag

Dear Mike: I hear they're having an awful time shooting "My Fair Lady." Is that true? — Carleton Foltz, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Dear Carleton: I've never yet known a fine picture that did not have its share of headaches in the shooting. One of the troubles, I'm told, is that Julie Andrews became so closely identified with the songs, through the stage show and the album. Julie's part is being played by Audrey Hepburn. And Audrey, who can't afford it, lost three pounds in two days this past week shooting just one musical number, "Wouldn't It Be Lovely?"

Mr. Connolly: I have often wondered how you peddlers of other people's business manage to keep some people's secrets out of the newspapers. I hate to see newspapers make an attack on some lowly person who has neither the power nor the inclination to strike back. And I know YOU know that newspapers can crucify you if they so choose. Sneer at whom you please — I won't be reading you. You're entitled. — Mrs. Sara Williams, Pasadena, Calif.

Dear Mrs. Williams: I've got the funniest feeling you've been reading my mail from ones who are glad she belted me.

Dear Mike: What was the matter with Van Johnson on Merv Griffin's TV show? He acted as though he was "goofy," or partially "stoned" or "dopey." — J. V. Alexander, Palo Alto, Calif.

Dear J.V.: Van says he had to get up too early for the daytime TV show (after staying up too late following a live performance of "Bye Bye Birdie" in Chicago) and as a result he was "sleepy."

Dear Mike: I have met a girl who should be in show business. She is five feet seven inches tall, dances, has greenish-blue eyes, a beautiful nose, naturally blonde hair, is 16 and has a forceful, dynamic personality. Any investments made by talent scouts would pay off eventually. What have you got to lose? Just meet her once and perhaps you could be her business agent. I'm sure the lives of millions of people would be richer for it if she became a star. She could be another Ann-Margret. Her name is Francine Lesser. — An Admirer of Francine, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Admirer: You don't need me. If she's that fabulous, make her take a part with an amateur theatrical group right there in Brooklyn, where I know there are dozens of such groups. The talent scouts will beat a path to Francine's door.

Dear Mr. Connolly: How come movies aren't made like they used to be, when Dorothy Lamour played the native girl?

Walt Niemi Earns Pair Of Awards

Walter Niemi garnered awards for the best prepared speech and the top impromptu talk at a recent meeting of Rolling Hills Toastmasters Club 139.

Niemi's prepared talk was entitled "Riding a Pinto to California." His impromptu subject was "Rearing Teenagers." Bill Waddell earned the best performance honor as general evaluator.

Rolling Hills Toastmasters are now meeting at the Hunting Horn Restaurant in the Peninsula Center. Meetings are conducted at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays.

During the two and one-half hour-long meeting, the dinner is served, a business meeting conducted, and impromptu and prepared speeches given and evaluated by members.

Club president Don Sander invites interested men to call 377-6228 for further information.

turn on your TV set, and you'll see plenty of them.

Dear Sir: Why don't Janet Leigh and Elvis Presley like Ann-Margret? — Arthur B. Dove, Corning, Ark.

Dear Arthur: I think you've got it wrong. It's not that they don't like her — it's just that they would rather she didn't walk away with the movies in which she's their co-star.

Dear Mike: Whatever happened to the little boy with the fantastically powerful beautiful voice who sang the "Ave Maria" duet with the late Mario Lanza in "The Great Caruso"?

This question has haunted me for a long time. What a glorious voice! — Mike McLane, San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Mike: The boy wasn't billed in the movie but producer Joe Pasternak says you can find out by writing to the St. Luke's Chorists in Long Beach, Calif. The choirmaster at the time was Ripley Doerr. He is thought to be living in Santa Barbara, Calif. Wish I could be of more help.

Dear Mike: Does Carol Channing wear a wig? Whether she does or doesn't, why doesn't she get a decent hair-do? She always looks like she's been on a week-long drunken spree.

Isn't it true that, without the greasepaint, most actresses are just plain ordinary homely? — R.L.B., Peoria, Ill.

Dear R.L.B.: Carol never touches beer, wines or hard liquor but does occasionally shampoo her hair with beer. It makes her hair soft, she says, but she can't do a thing with it and hope's you'll excuse her when that happens. She also says, next time she's in Peoria, you be sure to come and see her — and judge for yourself whether she's homelier with or without makeup.

(Mike Connolly welcomes all readers' questions, but due to the large volume of mail received, it may be some time before the answer to your question appears in his column.)

Noted Lecturer Plans Meeting Series

Lorita Baker Valley, distinguished commentator on world affairs and current literature, books, plays, and magazines, will again be presented at St. Francis Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Palos Verdes Estates, by the St. Elizabeth Guild and the St. Veronica Guilds.

It is said Mrs. Valley reaches more people than any other platform speaker in the West, facing 15,000 to 20,000 people each month. Her listeners are multiplied many times for she

is declared one of the most quoted speakers in the California scene. Time magazine in a national survey of women reviewers of books and events, put Lorita Baker Valley "easily at the top of her trade."

THIS SERIES at St. Francis Episcopal Church will be her only appearance in the Peninsula area this season, and will consist of seven lectures, followed by a luncheon. The lectures start at 11 a.m. on the first Friday of each month,

October through May, with the usual exception of December. The series ticket can be obtained from Mrs. R. M. Hamada. Tickets for single lectures may be obtained at the door. Free baby-sitting also will be offered this year.

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