

On the Sets

With **LUIS ROSADO**

What's happened to yesterday's child stars—and who is filling their spots in today's little brat and angel parts?

Shirley Temple, now a mama, is still the idol of adorners of the 30's. Judy Garland and Jane Powell, now grown up, are still singing favorites, and Deanna Durbin, one of the "Three Smart Girls," is planning a return to the screen in a film to be made in Paris, where she is living now. Jane Withers has retired from the screen to happy domestic obscurity, as has "Little Lord Fauntleroy" Freddie Bartholomew, now arousing nostalgic longings in film releases on TV.

Mickey Rooney, Donald O'Connor, and Jimmy Lydon are the only male youngsters still in the business — though no longer youngsters; Jackie Cooper is successfully competing on the legit stage; and little singing star Bobby Breen is now running the night club circuit throughout the country.

That's the "old familiar" roster. As for film's younger set today, even Margaret O'Brien is no longer a moppet, but has advanced to romantic young lady roles.

The comparatively open field is being invaded, though, by several new juvenile charmers — Jimmy Hunt, Gigi Perreau, Sherry Robinson, and Mary Jane Saunders.

Because his schoolteacher knew a movie talent scout, Jimmy Walter Hunt played Van Johnson at the age of 6 in "High Barbaree," and is now playing the key role of Margaret O'Brien's kid brother in Columbia's "The Romantic Age."

Jimmy was born in Los Angeles, California, Dec. 4, 1939, and no one in his family, except his grandfather, who worked in small town theaters for a while, has had any professional stage or screen experience. Jimmy's father is a tool and die maker.

Sandy-haired, blue-eyed, 70 pound Jimmy has scarcely a spot on his face that isn't freckled, and in his off moments from the set he wants to be a cowboy, but confesses that he will settle for being a cameraman if he can't go out on the range.

Recently a newspaper reporter asked Jimmy's mother to tell him about her son. "Jimmy?" she said. "What's there to tell? He's just plain boy."

Studio executives have more to say however. They are raving about his roles in "Katie," "Saddle Tramp," "Louisa," "Family Honeymoon," "Top O' The Morning," "Death in a Doll's House," "Cheaper by the Dozen," "Mating of Millie," "Song of Love," "Living in a Big Way," and now "The Romantic Age."

Some of the juvenile's screen parents have been Clifton Webb, Myrna Loy, Evelyn Keyes, Glenn Ford, Ann Sothern, Ruth Hussey, Ronald Reagan, and Joel McCrea.

On the feminine side of the list of new stars is Gigi Perreau, soon to star in Normandy Productions' "Ring Around the Sheriff." Eight year old Gigi plays the hilarious role of an innocent-appearing little schemer whose machinations to keep her sheriff father from romance only succeed in getting him into embarrassing situations.

Director Arthur Ripley is teaching Gigi, borrowed from Samuel Goldwyn studios, some of the comedy techniques of Robert Benchley and W. C. Fields for her role.

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