

production, selected Allan Dwan to direct.

"Kidnaped" (Colonial) by Paul
From the world's great stories come the greatest motion pictures and "Kidnaped," which Robert Louis Stevenson considered his best, proved this axiom to the hilt Friday at the Colonial Theatre.

With the typical lavish hand that earmarks all the 20th Century-Fox productions which come under the watchful eye of Garry P. Zanuck, "Kidnaped" brings an array of fine motion picture thrills to the screen in a romantic adventure story.

Warner Baxter portrays in all his swashbuckling, vigorous best, the never-to-be-forgotten Alan Breck, fugitive chieftain of the highlands. And Freddie Bartholomew, a size or two larger than when he last appeared so brilliantly on the screen, gives a fine performance to the role of David Balfour, the boy hero of the piece.

The movie takes liberty with the original script in introducing a "heart interest" to the life of Alan Breck. But this reviewer is willing to concede that even Robert Louis Stevenson might have rewritten his story had he known Arsen Whalen. This bright-eyed, mischievous Irish lass brings a freshness and beauty to the story that makes "Kidnaped" a treat for eyes jaded with glamer girl after glamer girl.

The story concerns Alan Breck's leading the clans in revolt against union of the North Country with George III's domain. David Balfour is the lad with the unscrupulous uncle who tries to keep the boy's rightful estate by having him kidnapped and shipped to America. The lives of Alan Breck and David Balfour cross at the point where the girl, fiancée of a lesser rebel, falls in love with Breck.

An impressive cast headed by C. Aubrey Smith, Reginald Owen, John Carradine, Nigel Bruce, Miles Mander, Ralph Forbes and H. B. Warner appears in the film, which was directed by Alfred Werker.

Comedy

"There's Always a Woman," which costars Joan Blondell and Melvyn Douglas next Friday at the Colonial Theatre, is a Columbia comedy, which is responsible for such films as "It Happened One Night," "The Awful Truth," "Theadora Goes Wild," and "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town," believes the new production an even greater production than its many predecessors. It was directed by Alexander Hall from a screen play by Gladys Lehman, also has in its cast such brilliant Hollywood performers as Astor, Jerome Cowan, Frances Drake and Robert Paige.

Because the law requires that a machine gun used in a film never be out of the hands of a police officer, except when in actual use in a scene, Deputy Walter Wood of the Los Angeles county sheriff's office, had to eat his meals with a Tommy gun in his lap while on location with RKO Radio's "Crime Ring."

In addition, Wood had to keep the gun with him every minute, never putting it down even for one minute's rest, except when it was being used. Then Wood had to step on the side lines and never let the gun out of his sight.

Large audiences aren't the only thing that causes Joan Crawford to suffer from "stage fright."

One person had the same effect on the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer star — it was Geraldine Farrar, noted operatic singer.

When Miss Crawford recently visited New York, she was entertained at luncheon by celebrities of the operatic world. After luncheon, Miss Farrar expressed a desire to hear the screen star sing.

As the star took her place beside the piano, she suddenly suffered from acute "stage fright." Try as he would she just couldn't make a sound.

Miss Farrar immediately came to the rescue. For two hours the two vorted together, one a willing teacher, the other an eager and grateful pupil.

Miss Crawford sang several selections in French and Italian, after which she was complimented highly and given helpful criticism on her voice technique.

George Breakstone, who won fame as a boy actor in "No Greatert Glory," and returns to the screen as a high school boy in "Love Finds Lady Hardy," a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, is celebrating two events. The first is his winning the role of boy radio operator in the picture, the second his receiving his second wireless operator's license, which means that he now possesses every commercial license the government grants in radio.

Breakstone, who operates his own government-licensed radio station and is a leader among amateurs, has been making an intensive study of radio engineering for the past three years, and plans to finish the course at Caltech. He has devoted himself solely to engineering study for two years. Not only Breakstone, but his radio station, will be used in the picture, with Lewis Stone, Mickey Rooney and the rest of the Judge Hardy Family.

"Ground Crew" — the airplane drama just finished at the RKO Radio Studios has been re-named "Northern Flight." This is Richard Dix's second starring picture since his return under this company's banner, his "Blind Alibi" being a current release.

Supporting Dix in "Northern Flight" are Chester Morris, Joan Fontaine, Harry Carey, Paul Guilfoyle, Vicki Lester. It was produced by Robert Sisk and directed by Lew Landers and will be released late in July.

Unhappiest property man this week in Hollywood was a veteran at the Paramount studio who was getting together the things listed in the script of "The Texans," which James Hogan is directing with Joan Bennett and Randolph Scott as the stars.

"The guns, hats, wagons and boot-lacks were easy, but what got him down was 'Tucson bed.' It seemed that the Bronco cowboy's sleep 'Tucson bed,' and there wasn't one in stock. He spent two week writing, telephoning and probing in art stores and junk-shops. Then he discovered that to sleep 'Tucson bed' was to use 'your back for the mattress and the ground for springs.'"

Olivia de Havilland's carefully gathered collection of pressed Rose Chior, actress some delay and worry when she arrived in New York recently.

The herbarium into which she had so carefully pressed the flowers she had gathered from the English countryside, was turned over by customs authorities to inspectors to see if by any chance the young actress was accidentally importing quarantinable plant diseases.

The book was returned to her a few hours later, with one page missing. Now she is wondering what flower that particular page had but her curiosity will probably go unsatisfied. The flower collection is the most valuable souvenir Olivia brought back from her long vacation.

It will mean amusement and a touch of nostalgia for movie-goers, but the old fashioned pillow fight staged by Anne Shirley, Ruby Keeler, Fay Bainter and Ralph Morgan for a sequence in RKO Radio's "Mother Carey's Chickens" means much more than that to the crew engaged in filming the screen adaptation of Kate Douglas Wiggin's best seller.

For the prop man it meant rounding up chicken big pillows stuffed with goose feathers. For the make up man it meant de-feathering the cast after each take, the hair-dressers had the job of plucking the feathers from the intricate, old-fashioned coiffures, the wardrobe man had to brush and pick the feathers from all costumes used, and anyway the cleaning crew had to remove all

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