

Splendid Cast And Good Direction Do Their Best To Help Weak Story

"YOU CAN'T FOOL YOUR WIFE"

George Melford Prod.—Paramount

DIRECTOR George Melford
AUTHOR Waldemar Young
SCENARIO BY Waldemar Young
CAMERAMAN Bert Glennon
AS A WHOLE A somewhat unconvincing story splendidly cast and lavishly produced
STORY Different but not convincing twist given to familiar "dangerous age" situation
DIRECTION Has done all he could with material and provided beautiful backgrounds all the way through
PHOTOGRAPHY Very good
LIGHTINGS Generally fine
PLAYERS A splendid cast; Lewis Stone in well-suited role; Leatrice Joy extremely charming as his wife; Nita Naldi again the sensuous "vamp"; Pauline Garon an engaging flapper but hasn't much to do. Others include Julia Swayne Gordon, Paul McAllister, Tom Carrigan, John Daly Murphy
EXTERIORS Some exquisite shots of the beach and bay at Miami
INTERIORS Generally lavish
DETAIL A good deal
CHARACTER OF STORY Wall street millionaire "breaks" rival who is arrested for attempting to kill him and later uses other's flirtation with doctor's wife to bring about his revenge, but is unsuccessful
LENGTH OF PRODUCTION 5,703 feet

Despite the excellent production values and splendid cast that George Melford has provided for his latest offering, "You Can't Fool Your Wife," the story is such that while it holds the interest by means of pictorial appeal and well-handled detail, as a whole it fails to convince.

It builds up in an interesting and entertaining manner, although slightly too heavily burdened with detail, for the best part of four reels giving Leatrice Joy and

Nita Naldi plenty of opportunity to display their various charms and gowns and Lewis Stone another chance to play the role of the young man of forty who, though happily married, "lightly turns to thoughts of love" when the occasion presents itself.

With the climax, however, comes the only new twist in the theme—that of having all the character center around the unconscious man on the doctor's table, brought there through the scheming of the villain he "broke" in Wall Street. With the man in unconscious condition, the doctor is told that he is the man who has been mixed up with the doctor's wife. The point that despite his insane jealousy, he is still the surgeon and must aid his patient, is very well brought out, as is the idea that he wishes her to suffer, and to that end brings her into the operating room to witness his work. Then the nurse, hastily sent for, enters and finds after one look at the patient, that he is her husband, whom she has left because of his flirtation. This is the one really strong situation in the picture.

There is plenty of pictorial appeal, however, and extravagant sets and "stunts" such as the bootleggers ball—where, there is a lot of free advertising for Gordon gin. There is also a midnight swimming party with all the guests disclosing bathing suits under their evening clothes and jumping in the pool that will please those who like that sort of "society" atmosphere. Some of the exterior shots showing the Bay and the shore at Miami are also extremely attractive, but the set used to represent the Long Island home is far too pretentious, and looks more like the interior of a church.

The work of the cast is particularly good. Lewis Stone is really convincing, as the guilty husband, and Miss Joy gives a charming performance as his wife. Nita Naldi wears rather daring gowns at times and has another regulation "vamp" role, that will please her admirers. There is also a large supporting cast containing some very well-known names. Pauline Garon has also been featured. She hasn't a great deal to do, but gets over some comedy bits in good shape. Incidentally, there is an abundance of sub-titles all the way through, a few of which might be eliminated.

If Your Crowd Likes Names You'll Have No Trouble

Box Office Analysis for the Exhibitor

You can in all probability get the crowd in by simply playing up your cast. The names will do the trick for you. Leatrice Joy, Nita Naldi and Lewis Stone are all you need but you can also tell them about the rest of the cast including Pauline Garon, last seen in "Adam's Rib." If you have played the "Dangerous Age," you can tell them that Lewis Stone has a simi-

lar role in this one. Mention the bootleggers ball and the bathing party and tell them a good bit of the locale is the winter colony in Florida. That should be enough, if they like this sort of a picture. However, don't make promises for the story if you have a critical crowd.