

"The Lady Who Lied"

First National
As a Whole **ROMANTIC SETTINGS AND COLORFUL ATMOSPHERE MAKES THIS SOMEWHAT APPEALING BUT STORY CONTAINS SOME FAMILIAR SITUATIONS.**

Cast.... Virginia Valli is the fabricating heroine who gets into a love mix-up because she's too proud. Lewis Stone is the attractive middle-aged suitor who twitches his mustache at too frequent intervals. Edward Earle is the doctor who keeps drinking to quench his African thirst. Nita Naldi's name will go well in front of the box office but her vamping is considerably curtailed. She makes only one or two appearances. Others Leo White and Louise Payne.

Type of Story.... Romance; adapted from Robert Hichens' novel "Snake-Bite". This time it was the lady's tongue as well as the light in her eyes that "lied and lied". Virginia Valli is the story-telling heroine of this rather colorful romance that depends upon desert atmosphere, attractive settings and its principals to entertain. The situations are mostly familiar and they're woven together in pretty much the usual way. Most conspicuous in its development is the old incident wherein the husband, a physician, has his rival's life in his hands when the latter is in danger of death. The doctor can save his life or let him die. This time the "other man" is bitten by a snake and the doctor saves his life. Edwin Carewe has supplied a good looking production and even though the desert atmosphere isn't the most soothing at the present season it is sufficiently reminiscent of slick business to bring in a female delegation.

Story: Fay Kennion sees a vamp in negligee in her fiance's rooms. The engagement is off and Fay journeys to Africa to marry an old sweetheart. She finds him a drunkard but marries him. Horace, the former fiance, follows. He hires Fay's husband to accompany him on a desert trip—purpose to win back Fay. How he finally succeeds includes some desert thrills and good romance.

Box Office Angle.... Romantic angle and attractive atmosphere may get this one over satisfactorily. Good production and cast are also points in its favor.

Exploitation.... Your women patrons will find this more to their liking than the men, no doubt. Let them know it has romance that wends its way to an African desert and includes a bandit raid and other bits of excitement. Use the names of Lewis Stone and Virginia Valli in your announcements. Run a trailer and use the regulation stills.

Direction.... Edwin Carewe; good
Author.... Robert Hichens
Scenario.... Lois Zellner and Madge Tyrone
Cameraman.... Robert Kurlle
Photography.... Good
Locale.... Europe-Africa
Length.... 7,111 feet

"The Verdict"

Prod.: Phil Goldstone
Dist.: Truart—State Rights
As a Whole... **MURDER MYSTERY THAT CONTAINS VERY GOOD SUSPENSE AND HAS FIRST RATE DEVELOPMENT.**

Cast.... Good all the way through and with many well suited types. Louise Lorraine pleasing as the heroine and victim of unusual circumstances. William Collier, Jr., very good as the accused, Lou Tellegen much too imposing in his role as the victim. Others Gertrude Astor, Paul Weigel, Taylor Holmes, Stanton Heck, Charles Clary, Geo. Fawcett, and Elliott Dexter.

Type of Story.... Mystery melodrama. There is a well founded mystery and it's so substantially built up with reasonable suspense that "The Verdict" stands a bit apart from the conventional murder mystery yarn with its mechanical plot and development. It has an occasional technical loophole but it isn't likely that these are apparent enough to disturb the average train of thought. Fred Windemere has handled the story very nicely on the whole. He starts off by establishing a premise that is easy to grasp and proceeds with his story by introducing the murder, presenting the suspects (and there's reason enough to suspect five people of the crime) and then unwinding the mystery. The only fault to be found with his work is the over stressed attempts of Tellegen, in the opening sequence, to seduce the heroine. These scenes are not well done and Tellegen overacts badly. **Story:** Carol Kingsley is sought by Victor Ronsard, a never-do-well son of a owner of the fashion shop where Carol works. She is in love with Jimmy, bookkeeper in the establishment. Victor hires her to his apartment and during her presence there he is killed. Jimmy, Claire, Victor's wife, the butler and the valet are all suspected but Jimmy is finally found guilty. At the last moment the butler confesses to the crime, having killed Victor following a struggle when the butler begged Victor to permit Claire to leave his apartment.

Box Office Angle.... Satisfying attraction if you know a mystery meller appeals to your clientele. Has good suspense to recommend it without a lot of unpleasant detail so often prominent in this type of entertainment.

Exploitation.... Run a trailer containing pictures of the five people suspected of murder and put the question to them: "Who killed Victor Ronsard? Which of these five is the guilty one? See 'The Verdict' on (show date) and learn if your decision was right".

Direction.... Fred Windemere good, on the whole
Author.... Not Credited
Scenario.... J. F. Natteford
Cameraman.... Roland Price
Photography.... All right
Locale.... City
Length.... About 7,000 feet

"Paths to Paradise"

Paramount
As a Whole... **BIG COMEDY HIT. THE BEST LAUGH GETTER IN WEEKS AND ONE OF THE BEST ENTERTAINMENTS. LOOKS LIKE GRIFFITH IS RIDING WELL ON TO FAME.**

Cast.... Raymond Griffith is the pace setter of the film. Gets over a lot of original comedy antics that are bound to pile up a big following for him. Betty Compson pleasing as the girl crook. Tom Santschi suitable as a blundering detective and Bert Woodruff a comical old coddler who's a bit careless with a diamond necklace.

Type of Story. Crook comedy; adapted from the play, "The Heart of a Thief" by Paul Armstrong. Raymond Griffith has been coming steadily to the front and his last, "Forty Winks" was a near riot of laughs. "Paths to Paradise" is another with a comedy shock punch. It whirls along in a speedy fashion with the laughs coming in rapid succession. And they come without being forced. It's easy comedy—the sort that it doesn't appear to have required any effort to register. They had a good yarn to work on but in less effective hands—Griffith's playing and Badger's direction—it might easily have gone to waste. The early reels are consumed with a lot of clever business, too intricate to give in detail here, and the latter part of the picture includes a comedy-thrill auto chase that is probably one of the best of its kind ever filmed. It's a thrill and a laugh a second.

Story: Griffith wins the confidence of an old gent who is to present his daughter with a diamond necklace immediately after her marriage. Griffith plans to steal the chain and so does Molly, the maid. They finally decide to team up on the job and there's a hilarious session while they're trying to get possession of it. When they do, and get all the way to Mexico to avoid capture, Molly has a change of heart. The two return with the wedding gift and decide to start life over by marrying and going straight.

Box Office Angle.... You can't go wrong on this. It's sure-fire comedy with the laughs coming one on top of another. Be sure to get your order in for "Paths to Paradise."

Exploitation. It shouldn't be necessary to give any advice on exploiting this one. Get it first and then just keep on promising them a real laugh—thrill picture. Be sure to boost Griffith and you can rest assured they'll soon be coming in when you announce his pictures. Paramount's press sheet is replete with stunt ideas if you want to use them. Let them know Betty Compson is working opposite Griffith.

Direction.... Clarence Badger; great
Author.... Paul Armstrong
Scenario.... Keene Thompson
Cameraman.... H. Kinley Martin
Photography.... Good
Locale.... California
Length.... 6,741 feet

"The Midnight Girl"

Chadwick Pictures—State Rights
As a Whole... **WELL SUITED FOR CERTAIN TYPE PATRONAGE. HAS ANGLES AND ATMOSPHERE THAT WILL APPEAL ALTHOUGH STORY ITSELF IS OF A CONVENTIONAL ORDER.**

Cast.... Lila Lee, as a Russian emigrant girl who seeks an operatic career in America, helps to get over a role that doesn't always gain your sympathy. Gareth Hugh isn't a suitable hero. Too weak type for the part. Dolores Casnelli is well cast as the vamp as others are Charlotte Walker, Be Lugosi, Ruby Blaine.

Type of Story.... Melodrama. T struggles of a young girl who ambition is to become an operatic star offer attractive possibilities that appeal particularly to a certain type of audience—those who prefer an even mildly sensation theme. The manager who assumes the singer a career if only, etc., a most familiar character. He reappears again in "The Midnight Girl" and gives Lila Lee, as the singer, plenty to worry about when she finds he has her corner of his apartment. To make it more intricate she happens to be in love with the impresario's son and then another complication is the fact that the son is engaged to another girl and she's bound to give him up. And the manager is just as certain his son won't be the singer. It comes to a climax when the girl is trapped in the manager's apartment, having gotten there in a fit of pique after learning of her lover's engagement and strikes a woman hiding behind a curtain. The woman had ordered out in anticipation of singer taking her place. She's slightly injured and it works to a nice, censor proof ending the manager marrying his former mistress and the son marrying singer. Stage atmosphere and pret scenes decorate this in style and the interest is pretty sustained. The story isn't strong but it has elements of audience appeal sufficient to get it over.

Box Office Angle.... Will go where you know they like the type of atmosphere presented her stage life, cabaret scenes and like.

Exploitation.... Lila Lee is a considerable asset in "The Midnight Girl". Use her name liberally, promise a good performance, a trailer showing the cabaret in "The Midnight Girl" shown swinging on a pendulum, part of act. This can be used for prolog idea also.

Direction.... Wilfred Noy;
Author.... Garret I
Scenario.... Wilfred Noy
Jean Conover.
Cameraman.... Not credited
Photography.... Good
Locale.... N
Length.... 6,300