

## FILM REVIEWS

### A SAINTED DEVIL

Paramount production starring Rudolph Valentino. Story adapted from Rex Beach's "Rope's End" by Forrest Halsey. Directed by Joseph Henaberry and Nita Naldi. Helen D'Algy and Dagmar Godowsky featured. At the Strand, New York, week of Nov. 23. Running time, 83 mins.

Don Alonzo Castro.....	Rudolph Valentino
Carlotta.....	Nita Naldi
Julietta.....	Helen D'Algy
Dona Florencia.....	Dagmar Godowsky
Casimiro.....	Jean del Val
El Tigre.....	George Seigman
Estella.....	Louise Lagrange

Since Valentino's 1924 "Monsieur Beaucaire" film is said to have done a flop outside of the big towns there is some speculation over "A Sainted Devil," which isn't as good a proposition as the first film upon the Mineralava ballyhoo's return to the screen. "Beaucaire" had the advantage in that it was the artistic type of production to draw good notices from the dailies but unless Rudy makes a swing over the country and feeds the newspaper boys and girls like he did in New York it doesn't look like he'll get much of a newspaper break. The women reviewers in New York—and they predominate—always give him a break here, be the film good or bad.

"A Sainted Devil" tells the story of Don Alonzo Castro, scion of a Spanish family in South America. In his youth he falls in love with a luscious lump of what he believes to be pure femininity, but one night, when he sees her in the arms of El Tigre, an ogreish sort of a fellow, Alonzo becomes peeved, disillusioned and blase, all in a few minutes. In reality another woman was wearing her mantilla and comb, thereby creating one of those mistaken identity situations to provide suspense.

The picture is not notably produced, although it is evident a flock of money has been spent. The

Henaberry direction is undistinguished and featured principally by the number of soft focus closeups which he gives the star, closeups which give full face, profile, ear, eye, nose and throat views of Rudy, which may be what the women want. The combination, too, of the two exotics, Nita Naldi and Dagmar Godowsky, may help the film, but of the two, Nita is the only one who shows any knowledge of acting. Dagmar is just a subtraction mark when it comes to acting, so to make up the "diff" she wears some weird-looking vamp property costumes.

All in all, "A Sainted Devil" is more of a personal Valentino vehicle than a regulation picture. Its exhibition value and the price the first run exhibitors have to pay is going to have a lot to do with its money-making potentialities as far as the exhibitor is concerned.

Its opening at the Strand was tremendous. From the opening to the closing standing room only and none to spare of that was the rule. Monday the house wasn't nearly filled when the second performance

began, but was filled rapidly. That it will stay two weeks at the Strand is certain, but the Strand isn't the only house in America, and the first run houses aren't the only ones to be considered.

Maybe it'll satisfy the Valentino rooters. Most of them are women, and this is a woman's film. *Stik.*