

SCIENCE & FANTASY

FAN REPORTER

ISSUED WEEKLY.

PUBLIC OPINION OF ST FILMS CHANGES PRAISE FOR "ALL THAT MONEY CAN BUY."

"To-day I witnessed the finest performance I have seen on any screen."

The above statement, written by a film reviewer in last Sunday's paper, refers to Walter Huston's portrayal of Mr. Scratch, the nasty little man from down below, in "All That Money Can Buy" and is another step forward for science and fantasy films.

"All That Money Can Buy," the screen play of "The Devil and Daniel Webster," is Sydney's latest fantasy show, having started last Friday. Very briefly, it is the story of a man who sells his soul to the devil, and ends up with lawyer Daniel Webster pleading for his soul against a jury of the Damned. It is real fantasy, not the type of stuff that is usually doled out these days.

In the three reviews that were given last Sunday, nothing was said against it, and two of the columnists praised it highly, one making the statement that is repeated above. It seems that "All That Money Can Buy" is the best fantasy film to hit Sydney for a long time, though whether the general public will like it or not is a different matter.

Generally speaking, fantasy films have improved considerably of late. Since the time Karloff stopped killing people just for the pleasure of it, and killed them in the interests of Science, stfilms have picked up.

One reviewer, writing of one of Karloff's pro-science films, said the film was quite good until he started his massacre. This indicates the general opinion, that the public is quite satisfied with science by itself, without the accompanying shiver-stuff.

POLLS.No. PRO-EDITORSPOOR RESPONSE FROM READERS.

Though this poll has been running now for a fortnight, there have been only four votes sent in. We attribute this partly to the fact that the poll was forced out of last week's issue, and partly because some fans find it hard to differentiate between the editors' policies, and those of their bosses. For example, Ray Palmer (why do we always pick on him?) has to do just what Messrs.Ziff-Davis say, thus is not wholly responsible for Amazing's present position.

Because of this latter fact, some readers are finding it hard to decide just what editors they like. Which causes us to issue this warning. If you can't make up your mind as to which five editors are your favourites, don't vote at all. We do not want people sending in inaccurate votes, for even though they may be trying to help us, they would ruin the whole idea of the poll. So only vote if you are certain.

With that off our chest, we can now turn to actual results so far. Street and Smith, who have been very successful so far, with Rogers, Smith, and Astounding heading their respective polls, are again in good position, as Campbell is in first place, level with Hugo Gernsback, each having received four points out of four. Positions are:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Number of votes..... | 4 |
| J. W. CAMPBELL..... | 4 points |
| HUGO GERNSEBACK..... | 4 " |
| GNAEDINGER, PALMER, WRIGHT, TREMAINE..... | 2 " |
| GILLINGS, POHL, SLOANE, WEISINGER..... | 1 " |

Officially, the poll is supposed to close in our next issue. However, it looks as if two more weeks will be needed before it is complete. Help us by sending in your vote as soon as you can. This would be greatly appreciated.

STORIES POLL.

When we started this series of polls, we said that pro and fan subjects would be included. But before we get on to fan stuff, we would like to more or less complete the pro polls. So prepare your ten best stories in readiness for this poll, to be held soon.

PANDOH AT RANDOMMelbournows by Wog Hockley.LATEST FILMS

"All That Money Can Buy" as indicated in the front page, started in Sydney last week. "Fantasia" will leave the Embassy in about a week. What will happen to it then we do not know.

In Melbourne, "Man Made Monster" and "Horror Island" are in their second week, and "Before I Hang" in its first. "Topper Returns" has also started by now.

BOOKS.

Some of this is stale now, as we did not have room to fit it in our last issue.

March Astonishing Reprint is now selling in all three active states.

"Looking Backward" was offered for two shillings, and "The Invisible Man" for one shilling in a Sydney bookshop recently.

Graham Stone, in order to obtain money to buy some post-ban mags in town, sold some of his less wanted items, amongst them an Astonishing for twopence. When he went to buy it back, price was sixpence.

Tales of Wonder No.15 is expected out this week.

SYDNEYS.

Good news for Molesworth: Vol has been informed that he will be able to recommence work next Monday, Nov.24. This marks the last stage in his recovery.

More good news for Vol: (This was crowded out of last issue) He is getting the Charles Fort Omnibus from an American fan, having sent in exchange two Australian Women's Weeklies!!!

A last word on Vol's illness. He appreciates visits that were made to him while in hospital, and though he does not agree with B.F.C. and R.B.L. in regard to stf, he was quite glad to see them turn up.

Arthur Duncan has moved, his new address being 510 Anzac Parade, Kingsford. All correspondents please to take note.

Bruce Sawyer has joined up, and is now in camp. His competition is announced in Ultra's Annish, which is now out.

EDITORIAL..Why Fantasy Films Fail.

With the very nice comments that are being thrown around with regard to "All That Money Can Buy," we thought that it would be appropriate for us to give our ideas on the subject of fantasy films, and why some of them meet a miserable end.

Way back in the days of the old "mollerdrummer", horror films were supposed to make men shudder, and women faint. Perhaps they did, but that was "way back when."

As we advanced toward more modern times, producers tried to introduce a little science into their horror films, in place of some of the horror. The result was a film like "The Bride of Frankenstein" which was not a patch on its predecessor. Still, they turned them out one after the other in the hope that someday the public might like them. Producers are optimists.

The next step was to delete the horror, and serve up the finished product with little science, and the same amount of horror. Being neither one thing nor the other, nobody liked them.

But from these there evolved the type of film that is prevalent to-day. It is the film that contains a scientific theme, and is usually pro-science. But again the producers make a mistake. They think that if they strew a few corpses around, the public will like it better, which is not true.

They still neglect the one factor that will make a scientific film succeed - plausibility. For the public to accept a new scientific idea, it needs to be wrapped in a story that has nothing that is not plausible. Until this is done fantasy films will not succeed.

THE EDITORS.....

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