

Hollywood Reporter

By Mike Connolly

MIKE'S MAILBAG

Dear Sir: What is Hollywood going to do about the movie version of "The Best Man," which I understand contains some topical and not-too-nice references to the late President Kennedy?—Joe Bronson, Minden, La.

Dear Joe: Producers Stuart Millar and Lawrence Turman tell me they are cutting only two lines of dialog—"You have to be a millionaire like the Kennedys or Rockefeller to run for President these days" and another, spoken by Margaret Leighton as the incumbent First Lady, about redecorating the White House, which Jackie Kennedy has done.

Dear Mike: Why are the members of the Hollywood Women's Press Club always conferring their "Sour Apple Awards" (for stars who are uncooperative with the press) on stars that the public adores?—Nora Weithas, Cedar Lake, Ind.

Dear Nora: The more popular the star, the more the ladies of the press persist in pushing them for exclusive interviews. And many of the star who has told me he just doesn't have that much time "to make up stories" about himself. This year's "Sour" male nominees are Rock Hudson, Jim Garner, Vince Edwards, Tony Curtis and Jim Franciscus. The distaff diggers are Debbie Reynolds, Liz Taylor, Ava Gardner, Natalie Wood and Ann-Margret. The winnah will be "honored" when the press girls gather for their annual Christmas party on Dec. 17.

Dear Mike: Why did Peter Lawford go back to work in his nightclub act with Jimmy Durante so soon after President Kennedy's assassination? I think it was in terribly bad taste.—Mrs. Florence Ellis, St. Leonard, Neb.

Dear Mrs. Ellis: I don't agree. I believe Pete's explanation that he had to keep busy in order to keep the tragedy off his mind.

Dear Mike: What is Dean Miller doing and whom did he marry? I don't know why they took his "Here's Hollywood" show off the air. It gave people a chance to get acquainted with the stars and their families.—Kitty L., Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Kitty: Dean is living in Columbus, Ohio, with his wife, Idy Wagner, doing a local TV show and raising a family. NBC says the series cost too much for a daytime show—dragging that camera equipment all over the world to interview stars, etc.

Dear Mr. Connolly: I read an article, by you, in which you sort of sympathized with Liz Taylor and said that she might get some consolation for her mixed-up life by reading the works of another Burton (Robert)—"What can't be cured must be endured." What she needs is to get right out of Richard Burton's life, where she has no business being in the first place. And read something by another great writer—"There is a destiny which makes us brothers, no one goes his way alone, all that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own."—A Lover of Truth, Detroit, Mich.

Dear Lover: Then there was

Christmas Week Shows on Stage

"Hansel and Gretel," Humperdinck's childhood opera, will be presented in eight matinee performances by the New York Marionette Theatre throughout Christmas week at the Culver City Memorial Auditorium, Culver Boulevard and Overland, just off San Diego Freeway. The musical fairy tale will double bill with the premiere of "Legends of the Orient," an original puppet drama.

Performances will begin at 10:30 and 2:30 Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 26, 27 and 28, with Sunday shows scheduled for 2:30 and 4:45 p.m. Further information is available at the Culver City Auditorium box office, phone VE 7-4439

Disraeli, who said, "My idea of an agreeable person is a person who agrees with me." But wouldn't it be a dull world if we all agreed on everything?"

Dear Sir: Why is Bill Fadiman, a Hollywood producer, always writing snide magazine pieces about Hollywood?—Curt L. Macri, Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Curt: Most magazines are published in New York, where the look-down-the-nose attitude toward Tinseltown prevails—why, I don't know, unless it's for geographical reasons or because New York is so full of so many screenwriters who couldn't make good in Hollywood. Says Fadiman: "I am not taking this censure lightly, I assure you, and I'm going to think long and hard before I do another piece on Hollywood of a deprecatory nature. My piece in the current Frontier Magazine called "The Declaration of Independents" does have an upbeat note, stressing the removal of the conveyor-belt techniques of the major studios and the substitution of independent-producer thinking."

Dear Mike: How are ABC's plans progressing on a TV show to replace Jerry Lewis—and who will be in it?—Mary Lou Fletcher, Granger, Wash.

Dear Mary Lou: The show will have a variety format. The title is "Saturday Night at The Palace." It will have various masters-of-ceremony, including Bing Crosby, Efrem Zimbalist Jr., George Burns, Ernest Borgnine, and Harriet and Ozzie Nelson.

(Mike Connolly welcomes all readers' questions, but due to the large volume of mail received, it may be some time before the answer to your question appears in his column.)

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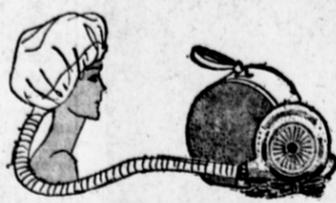
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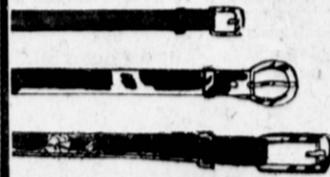
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