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The End



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October 23, 1992

The Editor  
FILM BULLETIN  
Winterthur  
Switzerland

Dear Sir:

Despite my limited knowledge of German, I always look forward to and enjoy  
FILM BULLETIN.

However, the page 1 full-page still in your #4 issue this year, while I realise  
being presented as "très kitsch", is a wonderful example of how one simple mistake  
can unleash a confusion of misinformation.

The still is identified as being of Judy Kelly from the Albert de Courville  
Gaumont British production of "Please Teacher", with a hand-written date of 1937  
add. In the background, the slate card, somewhat out of focus, does  
seem to confirm this by the number and placement of letters, even though they are  
unreadable.

However, "Please Teacher" was a 1937 production for Associated British, directed  
by Stafford Dickens, and starring Bobby Howes and Rene Ray.

Your still is from the 1934 Gaumont-British de Courville film "Things Are Looking Up"  
which starred Cicely Courtneidge, William Gargan and Judy Kelly with silent star  
Alma Taylor and newcomer Vivien Leigh in supporting roles. "Please Teacher" was however  
its in-production working title, which was almost immediately changed to a much more  
optimistic title for that depression period. (British films generally ignored the  
depression thematically, but frequently used titles like "Look Up and Laugh", "Looking  
on the Bright Side", both starring Gracie Fields, and "Things Are Looking Up" to put  
their potential audiences in a cheerful frame of mind.

To add to the confusion, both "Please Teacher" and "Things Are Looking Up" were  
written by Stafford Dickens, and while their plots were totally different, both shared  
a girls' school as one of the locations.

When, fifty years hence, Hervé Dumont produces his magnum opus on the career of  
Albert de Courville (not a prolific, but an interesting one) I hope he won't be  
confused by the captioning of your still.

your still.

Since  
W  
WILL

Sincerely,

*William K. Everson*  
William K. Everson