

Fullerton Railway Plaza Association

Retrospective Screening Series for Members

Saturday, January 20, 2007

- A Program of Obscure Comedy -

The Hurricane Express – (MPAA Not Rated) Tonight you will see Chapter 6, “The Airport Mystery,” of our 1932 Mascot serial, and succeeding Movie Nights will feature succeeding Chapters until, in Chapter 12, the identify of The Wrecker will finally be revealed!

It Happened to Jane (Columbia, 1959, 97 minutes, NR) – Jane Osgood (Doris Day) is trying to support her two young children by running a lobster business in Maine. After one of her shipments is ruined by inattention at the railroad station, Jane decides to take on Harry Foster Malone (Ernie Kovacs), director of the E&P RR and the “meanest man in the world.” With the help of her lifelong friend - and lawyer - George Denham (Jack Lemmon), Jane sues Malone for the price of her lobsters and her lost business. What she ends up with is a lot more than either of them bargained for - a steam locomotive and train.

The picture was filmed in 1958, mostly in Connecticut (Essex, Deep River, Hartford, etc.) along the rails of the New Haven RR. The producers used that railroad's last surviving steam locomotive which had been held for 4 years since the end of regular steam use on the railroad in 1954. She was used in the winter for snow melting service. After the film was completed, the locomotive was offered to anyone/community who wanted it. The town of Essex debated the idea but turned it down as not "fitting in" to the quaintness of the community. So the locomotive was sold for scrap and moved to a dismantling yard in Pennsylvania. A short while later the Danbury Fair Ground called the railroad and asked if they could have the locomotive, but a quick call to Pennsylvania brought the sad news that the locomotive had already been cut up. Thus, no New Haven RR steam locomotive survives today. At least we get to see “old 97” go out in a blaze of glory on the screen (the real number was 3016, according to Richard W. Symmes). She was a 2-8-2 wheel arrangement, known as a “Mikado” - a very common type of freight locomotive of the early 20th century.

The film didn't do particularly well when it opened in spite of Doris Day and Jack Lemmon, so it was shelved and subsequently re-released under a new title, “Twinkle and Shine,” that didn't do well either for perhaps obvious reasons.

Doris Day, one of America's most prolific actresses, was born Doris Mary Ann Von Kapplehoff on April 3, 1924 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her parents divorced while Doris was still a child and her mother gained custody. Like most little girls, Doris liked to dance. She would sometimes dance with friends and, sometimes just by herself. Soon enough she began the transition to have her dancing take her loftier heights. She had dreamed of being a ballerina, but an automobile accident ended what hopes she had of dancing on stage. It was a terrible setback. However, after taking singing lessons, Doris seemed to find a new vocation. She sang with local bands.

It was while on one singing engagement, she met Al Jorden whom she eventually married in 1941. Jorden was very prone to violence and they split after two years, not long after the birth of their son Terry who would later become a record producer. In 1946, Doris met, wed, and divorced George Weidler. This union lasted less than a year.

As with most singers, Doris had an agent and it was he who talked her into taking a screen test with the possibility of making motion pictures. The movie moguls of Warner Brother's Studios liked what they saw and signed Doris to a contract. Her first feature film was as Georgia Garrett in 1948's ROMANCE ON THE HIGH SEAS. In 1949, Doris made two films, MY DREAM IS YOURS and IT'S A GREAT FEELING. The contract between Doris and Warner's seemed a perfect match. All during the 1950s Doris turned in fine performances for Warner which in turn helped her to become a wonderful solo artist with hit after musical hit. Her filmmaking pace was picking up with three films in 1950 and five in 1951. It was during the latter year that Doris met Marty Melcher and he adopted her young son. In 1953, Doris starred in the title role in CALAMITY JANE. The film was a success and more followed. LUCKY ME (1954), THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH (1956), and PILLOW TALK (1959) kept movie goers entertained. During the 1960s there was to be more success. The decade dawned bright with PLEASE DON'T EAT THE DAISIES (1960). It was during the 60s that Doris began to slow down the pace somewhat. Her husband Marty had made deals for her to star in films she didn't really care about which led to a bout with exhaustion. The 60s wasn't to be a repeat of the previous, busy decade. Again, the films in which she appeared in were box-office success stories. Films such as DO NOT DISTURB (1965), THE GLASS BOTTOM BOAT (1966), WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT? and WITH SIX, YOU GET AN EGGROLL (both in 1968), delighted the legions of Doris Day fans. After the death of Marty in 1968, Doris never appeared again on the silver screen, but she had been signed to do THE DORIS DAY SHOW, on television, in which she played Doris Martin. The show was, what else, a big TV hit. The run lasted from 1968-1973, whereupon Doris did only occasional appearances. Today at 82, she runs the Doris Day Animal League in Carmel, California, which advocates homes and proper care of household pets. What else would you expect of America's sweetheart?



This copy of a "half-sheet" size poster (22" x 28") shows the original title taped over the re-release title "Twinkle and Shine"