

MORE PATRIOTIC FILMS TO BE MADE
In British Studios

ADMIRALTY CO-OPERATES FOR FIRST TIME

Britain On The Screen

(By Joan Littlefield)

London.

IT may be the spirit of the Jubilee; or, more likely, the splendid efforts of Hollywood, in such films as "The Lives of a Bengal Lancer," to present the English with patriotic films such as they hitherto have not bothered to make for themselves; but something, at any rate, has awakened British film producers to the possibilities of England and her history as first-rate film material.

In "Brown on Resolution," a new Gaumont-British film, the Admiralty co-operated for the first time with a film company by placing four ships at their disposal. The result is an excellent picture, with a dramatic and human story, told against a background provided by the Navy.

WAR NOVEL ADAPTED

It is an adaptation of a war novel by C. S. Forester, telling how Able Seaman Albert Brown escaped from a German warship, swam to nearby island (Resolution Island), and from

there picked off by the the sailors who were repairing the ship, thus delaying the vessel putting out to sea, and causing her to be shelled and sunk by an English cruiser.

Encouraged by the success of this picture, the Admiralty is now allowing the British and Dominions company to shoot scenes of the battleships *Renown* and *Hood* and of the picturesque dockyard area of Portsmouth for a film based on Anthony Kimmins' play "While Parents Sleep." The picture is directed by Fred Zelnick.

"DRAKE OF ENGLAND"

Another very patriotic film is British International Pictures' "Drake of England," now showing in the West End. This is based on the well-known play by Louis N. Parker, and, although it has been directed by a very young man, Arthur Woods, is just a little old-fashioned and stagey in treatment.

The Spanish galleons and Drake's ships are rather too obviously models, and the film would have been finer if it had been possible to have real ships on a real sea.

Mr. Woods, however, has tackled the big problem of the defeat of the Spanish Armada with real skill and imagination, and the hand-to-hand fighting and the sending of the fire ships into Calais Harbour are excellently contrived.

The film deals chiefly with Drake's exploits; and the many-sidedness of Elizabethan England is not suggested; but Athene Seyler, an actress of real versatility, gives a very interesting performance as the Virgin Queen, making her witty, outspoken, and entirely human.

Matheson Lang has the right presence and bluntness to make an excellent Drake, and Jane Baxter lends her charm and youth to the part of Elizabeth Sydenham, the girl he marries.

BRILLIANT SHORT FILM

The sea figures also in a brilliant short picture, made by Paul Rotha for Gaumont-British instructional films. It is called "Shipyard" and shows the dependence of the town of Barrow-in-Furness upon a shipbuilding order.

One is shown the growth of the ship, and the life of the British worker as he toils among the trestles and girders.

It is really cunningly presented, and a bit of the real Britain.

In this year's Royal Academy is the first design for a film set ever accepted by that body. It is work of L. P. Williams, a young art director attached to British and Dominions Films, and is the design for a room used in their new picture, "Peg of Old Drury."

"Bill" Williams is still in his twenties and the youngest art director in the country. He started out as an architect and went into British Films before the advent of talkies.

His first solo job was on a "School for Scandal" film made by Maurice Elvey; and now he is in charge of the art direction at the British and Dominions Studios.

He has recently returned from Hollywood where he spent several months studying American methods of set designing.

MOSCOW NIGHTS

London Films are shortly to begin work on "Moscow Nights," an English version of the French film success, "Les Nuits Muscovites," and it is possible that Miss Leigh will have a part in this.

It is to be directed by Anthony Asquith, and Harry Baur, the famous Continental star, has come over to repeat in English the part he played in the French version.

The setting of the film is Russia during the Great War, and highlights of the story include a great Russian

cabaret scene, and also a gambling scene. The story is said to be a mixture of spy intrigue and romance in colourful settings.

"PEG OF OLD DRURY"

Margaretta Scott, a tall, dark beauty, who is very individual and "different" in looks from most British film stars, has graduated to the films from the stage. She has played several small parts on the screen during the past year, and more will be heard of her in the future.

Miss Scott has the important part of Kitty Clive, Peg's bitter stage rival, in "Peg of Old Drury."

One of Miss Scott's evening dresses is of black velvet, cut on long clinging lines, with a square corsage and narrow shoulder straps.

A feature of the gown is the long light sleeves which cover the lower arm and end in a flare above the elbow. The dress is finished off with a white butterfly ornament in front.—Copyright by the Singapore Free Press.