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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.

Sincerely,
W
Will

Sincerely,

William K. Everson
William K. Everson