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Lee Marvin Seen As Beachcomber In "Donovan's Reef"

Lee Marvin, who is best known for his roles as sinister gangster, or as a cop in his popular TV series "M-Squad," now does a complete switch in the Technicolor adventurecomedy, "Donovan's Reef" which opens at the Theatre.

TV viewers who are accustomed to seeing Marvin as a tough, conscientious cop trying to preserve law and order in the Chicago Underworld, will be shocked when they see their detective-hero play the role of a drunken, brawling, but always lovable beachcomber who carries a beer bottle and cigar instead of his detective's badge.

Marvin has the fictitious role of "Boats" Gilhooley, a World War II hero who hails from Fall River, Mass. Gilhooley has been bumming around an island in the South Seas since VJ Day with his ex-buddy John Wayne. Although they are now close friends, they can't resist the opportunity to clobber each other whenever the opportunity presents itself — all because of a grievance the cause of which neither can remember.

Those who have marveled at the TV feats of Lee Marvin, Arch-foe of Crime, can enjoy a good laugh as their hero peers through his heavily lidded eyes at John Wayne, wondering if the time is ripe to give him a clout or two. Amusement should overshadow their chagrin as Lee Marvin loses all of his battles with big John Wayne.