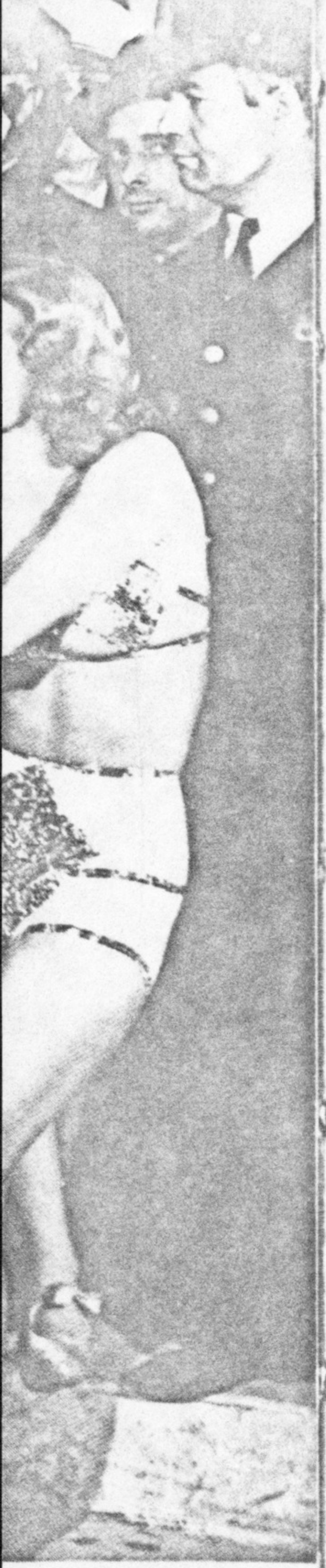


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Joan Crawford (right) had one of her biggest hits and the studio a record-breaker in **Dancing Lady**, a strong backstage story with musical trimmings on a lavish scale. Scripted by Allen Rivkin, Zelda Sears and P. J. Wolfson from James Warner Bellah's novel, it took her from a raided burlesque show with Winnie Lightner (left) to Broadway stardom with Fred Astaire. Their 'Rhythm of the Day' number (Fred's only appearance for his screen debut) was written for the movie by Rodgers & Hart, but the one that lasted was Lane & Adamson's 'Everything I Have is Yours'. Clark Gable, overshadowed for once, co-starred, with Franchot Tone, May Robson, Ted Healy and his 3 Stooges, Grant Mitchell, Sterling Holloway, Nelson Eddy (one song) and Robert Benchley. Robert Z. Leonard directed.

Mayer called in his son-in-law, David O. Selznick, to strengthen the top production brass while Thalberg was on sick leave. Selznick started with a flourish, out-starring Grand Hotel with an astonishing cast for **Dinner at Eight** and bringing director George Cukor over from RKO where they had turned out a succession of hits. The picture made a massive profit. The order of billing was: Marie Dressler, John Barrymore, Wallace Beery, Jean Harlow, Lionel Barrymore, Lee Tracy, Edmund Lowe, Billie Burke, Madge Evans, Jean Hersholt, Karen Morley, Phillips Holmes, May Robson, Louise Closser Hale, Grant Mitchell, Elizabeth Patterson . . . and then some. Here: Miss Burke as hostess of the dinner (which began as the film ended) and Beery and Miss Harlow as guests whose bickering was a comedy highlight. John Barrymore was outstanding as an alcoholic, suicidal actor, in the neatly jigsawed stories of the Herman Mankiewicz-Frances Marion-Donald Ogden Stewart script from the Edna Ferber-George Kaufman play.



The Secret of Madame Blanche was another dip into the Madame X-Madelon Claudet corn-bag. Irene Dunne and Douglas Walton (with Jean Parker, left) played mother and son who didn't know they were, until he committed murder, whereupon she took the blame. . . . It had the lot, including a Nineties' music hall, World War I, a big courtroom scene, and a tear-tapping performance by Irene. Charles Brabin directed the Frances Goodrich-Albert Hackett screenplay, with Phillips Holmes, Lionel Atwill, Una Merkel, C. Henry Gordon and Mitchell Lewis.

Has Phillips Holmes just murdered Mae Clarke? No-it's a frame-up! Penthouse/Crooks in Clover was a crime drama spiced



Van Dyke, producer Hunt Stromberg, scripters Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett and co-star Myrna Loy to their triumphant Thin Man a year later. C. Henry Gordon (here) was the gangster heavy and Warner Baxter the lawyer hero, supported by Nat Pendleton, Charles Butterworth, Martha Sleeper, George E. Stone, Robert Emmet O'Connor and Raymond Hatton.

Laugh at yourself, Hollywood, and the world laughs with you. Jean Harlow, playing from experience, demonstrated how an actress can be glamourized and publicity-pressured into an



idol in Bombshell/Blonde Bombshell, an uproarious satire on the dream factories and their star-building methods. Lee Tracy (left) was her high-powered press agent and Louise Beavers her maid; others contributing were Frank Morgan, Franchot Tone, Pat O'Brien, Una Merkel, Ivan Lebedeff, Ted Healy, C. Aubrey Smith, Mary Forbes and Isabel Jewell. Director Victor Fleming and scenarists John Lee Mahin and Jules Furthman helped make the Harlow-Tracy partnership a dazzler. Hunt Stromberg produced.

Marie Dressler's last appearance was in Christopher Bean with Lionel Barrymore. She died, aged 65, six months after its release. Her films are not revived, so it's hard to realize

today what a powerful ho woman had on the mov played both drama and c verve. If it sometimes acting, nobody cared: th sonality was irresistible. hit 'The Late Christoph Fauchois' 'Prenez Gard volved upon a deceased ch enough, was also the last Laurence Johnson (wi before his death. Sam Harry Rapf produced th icious family whose h custodian of a posthum paintings. Beulah Bond Helen Mack, Russell H and Jean Hersholt suppor

Paul Osborn's play 'Th fashioned by Bella and an Alice Brady vehicle, S which was better than i comedy of three women man was smoothly direct for producer Lawrence tured Conway Tearle an here with Miss Brady. Alexander, Mary Carl and Halliwell Hobbes. I mannerisms were meetin outside the city centre: Noël Coward's 'The Vo censorship problems pro left the contract list.

