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WEEKLY VARIETY - The Bigamist

Soap-opera of the "John's Other Wife" school for routine bookings.

Hollywood, Oct. 23.

Filmmakers (Indie) release of Collier Young production. Stars Joan Fontaine, Ida Lupino, Edmund Gwenn, Edmond O'Brien; features Jane Darwell, Kenneth Tobey, John Maxwell, Petty Maley. Directed by Ida Lupino. Screenplay, Collier Young; from an original story by Larry Marcus and Lou Schor; camera, George Diskant; editor, Stanford Tischler; music composed and directed by Leith Stevens; song, Matt Dennis and Dave Gillam. Previewed Oct. 20, '53. Running time, 79 MINS.

Harry Graham	Edmond O'Brien
Eve Graham	Joan Fontaine
Phyllis Martin	Ida Lupino
Mr. Jordan	Edmund Gwenn
Mrs. Connelley	Jane Darwell
Tom Morgan	Kenneth Tobey
Judge	John Maxwell
Phone Operator	Petty Maley
Prosecuting Attorney	Mack Williams
Mr. Forbes	James Todd
Executive	James Young
Miss Higgins	Lillian Fontaine
Dr. Wallace	John Brown
Matt Dennis	Himself
Roy	Jerry Houser
Tanner Driver	Ken Dibbs
Court Clerk	Kenneth Drake
Boy on the Street	Mac McKim
Head Walter	George Lee

The Independent Filmmakers unit has come up with a little drama that might have been lifted right off Elaine Sterne Carrington's soap-opera assembly line. As such it has some distaff appeal, but the general run of film audiences in the routine market will not take to it so the outlook is spotty. The star names are a step above the level usually found in this type of programmer.

Edmond O'Brien is a travelling salesman married to Joan Fontaine. While she handles their manufacturer's agency in San Francisco, he hits the road and during a bored stay in Los Angeles picks up Ida Lupino, a lonely hashlinger. The next thing you know, she's with child and O'Brien marries her, not revealing he already has a wife. All this emotional travail comes out when the legal O'Briens decide to adopt a child in San Francisco and is told in flashback after an investigation started by Edmund Gwenn, adoption officer, discloses the sorry double life. It all ends in court, with the judge promising to pass sentence next week, thus leaving it up to the spectator to write the finale.

Collier Young produced and did

the screenplay from a story by Larry Marcus and Lou Schor. The production values are good for the tight budget on which Filmmakers operates. Miss Lupino both co-starred and directed and is adequate in both functions, as are the other stars and featured players. Since the action is nearly always on the four principals, there isn't too much for the others to do.

Included in the score is an original song, "It Wasn't the Stars That Thrilled Me," by Matt Dennis and Dave Gillam, and which Dennis sings during a nitery sequence. Background score was composed and directed by Leith Stevens and fits the mood. George Diskant's lensing is good.

Brog.