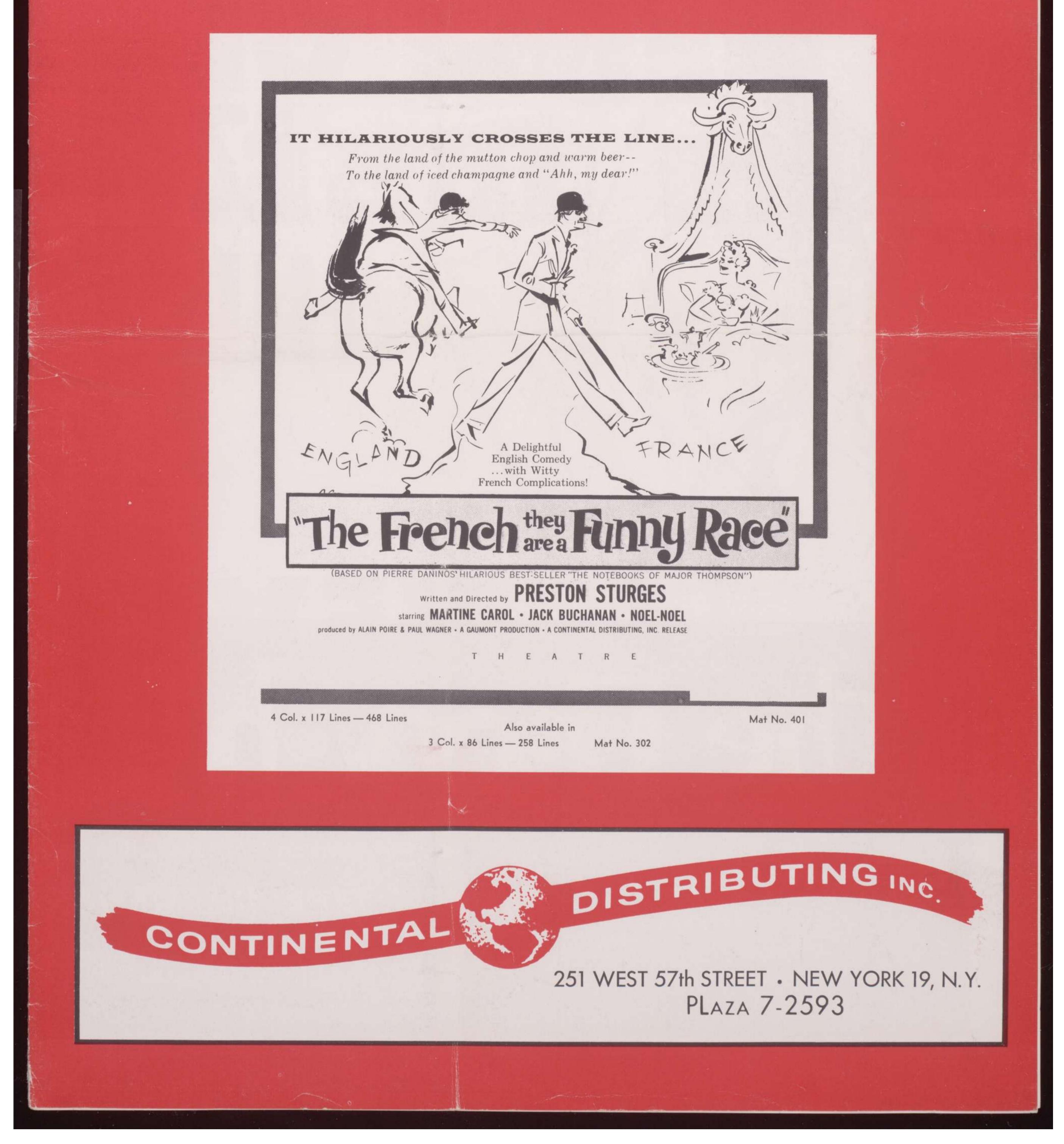


Document Citation

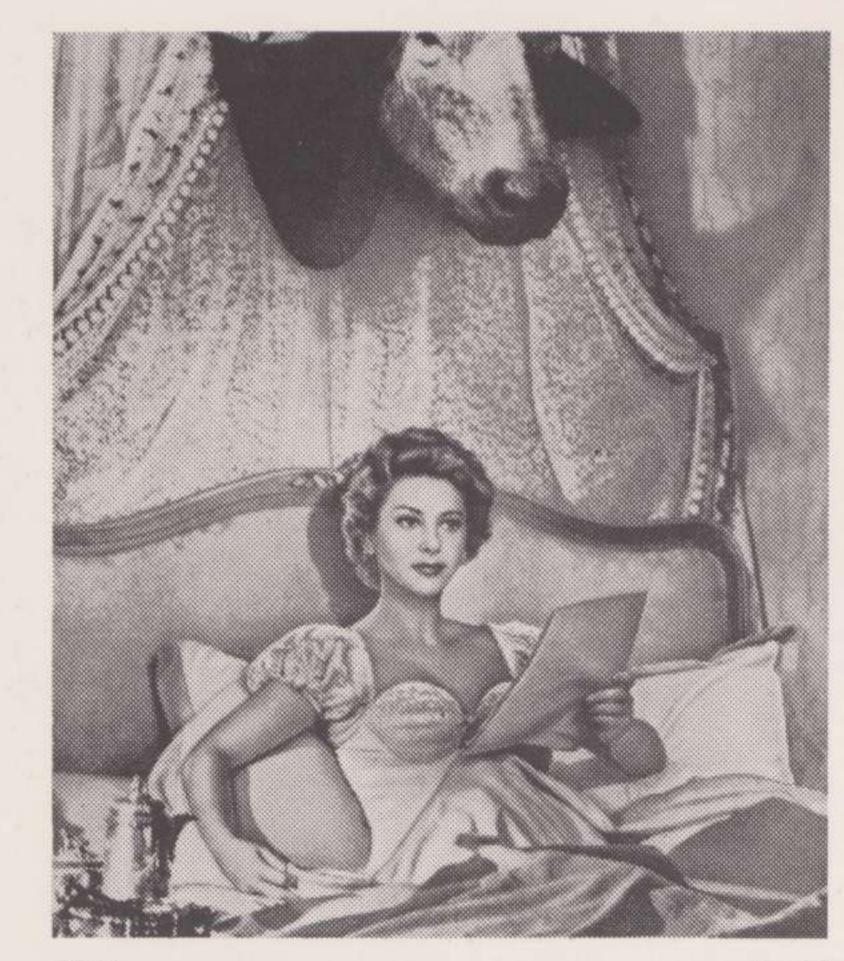
Title	The French they are a funny race
Author(s)	
Source	Continental Distributing, Inc.
Date	1957
Туре	exhibitor manual
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	5
Subjects	Noël-Noël (1897-1989), Nice, Alpes-Maritimes, France Buchanan, Jack (1891-1957), Helensburgh, Scotland Carol, Martine (1920-1967), Saint-Mande, France Sturges, Preston (1898-1959), Chicago, Illinois, United States Daninos, Pierre
Film Subjects	Les carnets du Major Thompson (The French they are a funny race), Sturges, Preston, 1955

FIRST PLACE IN THE BOX-OFFICE RACE!

SHOWMAN'S CAMPAIGN ADVERTISING • PUBLICITY • PROMOTION



WARNING: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code)



SCENARIST-DIRECTOR RECOUNTS BIRTH OF "THE FRENCH THEY ARE A FUNNY RACE"

(The following article was written by Preston Sturges, scenaristdirector of "The French They Are A Funny Race," which will have its local premiere this at the Theatre.)

My name is Preston Sturges and I used to make pictures out in the Golden West, in a town called Hollywood, until the Big Wind blew up and a number of us wandered on. While I was in Paris I was offered the opportunity to direct "The French They Are A Funny Race," based on Pierre Daninos' hilarious best-seller "The Notebooks of Major Thompson." The book concerns a British Colonial Officer who at one time was married to a reserved British wife and is now wed to an attractive French beauty, and his observations on the differences between the two. It further casts a rather mischievous eye on French morals, manners and matrimonial attitudes in general. Since it was written by a Frenchman, his compatriots get a very fair shake in comparison with their hereditary enemies: the English. When the property was first proposed to me by Gaumont, the largest of the French picture companies, I voiced considerable doubt as to its suitability for the screen.

"It ain't got no sex," I said, feeling they would expect me to talk like this after a stretch in Hollywood. That it would give them confidence in me.

producers, "the French part, naturally. The rest is illiterate!"

"I didn't realize it was so big," I said. I had visited Quebec because my mother was born there.

"Then there is North Africa," said my friends, "not to mention Madagascar and several of the Antilles!"

"Look," I said, "during my years in this industry I have quite often read the world-wide box-office reports of pictures I had a piece of. I have a fair idea of where the money comes from, and whereas I agree completely with you that anyone who does not speak fluent French is not only an analphabet, but a louse, I still wouldn't care to make a picture that didn't have a chance in the English-speaking countries."

"But could one make an Anglo-American picture out of this subject?" asked the producer.

"If one could make a picture out of it at all," I said, "one could do it just as well in English as in French."

"You are being humorous," said my friends, "you doubt the subject."

"By itself: I do," I said, "although I am en-"It's very funny," said Gaumont. "Everybody chanted with the idea of making an adult subject. Few have been offered me. If you will agree with me, however, that even an adult likes to be amused once in awhile, give me a hell of a cast, let me add a story of sorts with jokes, a little sex and maybe some suspense; then sprinkle it all with sex and a few pratfalls, I think I can give you back something." "What is it Le Pratfall?" asked my puzzled



FF-2 Mat 1B JACK BUCHANAN as Major Thompson, and lovely MARTINE CAROL as his wife Martine, as they appear in the new Preston Sturges' comedy "THE FRENCH THEY ARE A FUNNY RACE," based on Pierre Daninos' hilarious best-seller "The Notebooks of Major Thompson." The film, a witty sophisticated spoof on the morals, manners and matrimonies of the French, will have its local premiere at the Theatre. The film is being released in the United States by Continental Dis-

FF-14

Lovely MARTINE CAROL is co-starred with Jack Buchanan and Noel-Noel in Preston Sturges' new comedy, "THE FRENCH THEY ARE A FUNNY RACE" based on Pierre Daninos' hilarious best-seller "The Notebooks of Major Thompson." The film, a witty sophisticated spoof on the morals, manners and matrimonies of the French, will have its is being released in the United States by Continental Distributing Inc.



FF-29

Mat 1A Lovely MARTINE CAROL is costarred with Jack Buchanan and Noel-Noel in Preston Sturges' new comedy, "THE FRENCH THEY ARE A FUNNY RACE" based on Pierre Daninos' hilarious bestseller "The Notebooks of Major Thompson." The film, a witty sophisticated spoof on the morals, manners and matrimonies of the French, will have its local premiere and is being released in the United States by Continental Distributing Inc.



separates him from his bureau-

cratic adversary remarkably simi-

lar to an infernal machine, in this

scene from Preston Sturges' new

comedy, "THE FRENCH THEY

ARE A FUNNY RACE" based on

Pierre Daninos' hilarious best-

seller "The Notebooks of Major

Thompson." The film, a witty

sophisticated spoof on the morals,

manners and matrimonies of the

French, also stars Jack Buchanan

and Martine Carol. "THE

Mat 2C

Mat 1C

in France is laughing at it!"

"I know that," I said, "and they are laughing at themselves, which is a very healthy sign. It indicates the French are an intelligent, high-class race. But you must remember that all these people who are laughing are people who can read. Not everybody who goes to the movies can read. You must think of them too!"

"Everybody in France can read!" said Gau- friends. mont.

"I'll take your word for it," I said, "but we must also think of the rest of the world! Not everybody in the rest of the world can read."

"We do not make pictures for barbarians!" said my French friends. "Kindly remember that France, the intellectual center of the world ... the seat of erudition and the torchbearer of civilization, was already an extremely cultured nation ... while our neighbors across the Channel, who give themselves such airs, were still painting their faces with blue mud...and nesting in the trees."

"You are referring to the English," I said.

"The truth is the truth," said my producers apologetically.

"I see," I said. "Were you thinking of selling this picture over there?"

"We never sell anything over there!" said my French friends. "When we start a film and try to guess beforehand what the different countries might possibly bring in, behind England all we put is a question mark!"

"What do you put behind America?" I asked. "We don't even write them down on the paper," said my friends. "Cowboys! They' don't speak French, but they refuse to look at dubbed pictures! Even when they are so beautifully dubbed that you can hardly tell it is not the original actors speaking ... except once in awhile!"

"I was thinking of making the picture in two languages," I said, "English and French. In fact if I make this picture at all, I think it will be in two languages. I would not care to put in all the time and effort it is going to take to turn this book into a picture, and then show it in France only!"

friends, "and don't forget Switzerland." "I won't," I said, "I went to school there." "Canada is also a very large market," said the

"You know," I replied, "tomber ... Bang! Sur le derriere ... Boom!"

"Ah," said my friends, "Le gag!"

"That's right," I said, "Le gag sur le Prat!"

"This is enjoyed in your countries?" asked my friends sadly.

"Relished," I replied.

"Slightly childish," said my friends.

"You never said a truer thing," I replied. "You have to be young in heart."

"But what," asked one of the gentlemen, "is Le Gag sur le Prat to do in this adultish picture?"

"It's the sugar," I said. "You know, like they put on pills."

Now the two pictures were nearly finished. The producers had really come through, charmingly and generously, with everything I had asked. I had two complete and loyal crews, and I didn't lose more than thirty-five or forty pounds running between the stages to give them set-ups. Giving up my lunch and dinner also saved a little time, and by working in the cutting room every night till midnight, I hadn't fallen too far behind in the assembly. Also, they had really given me a hell of a cast: Martine Carol, the toast of Europe, ravishingly pretty, funny, and a ripe peach of a girl in every department; Jack Buchanan, the best dressed man in the world, the English star of stars and a hilarious comedian; and finally Noel-Noel, the great French mime, probably one of the funniest men on earth. The fact that they were not all exactly bilingual and that I did not change one single actor for either version, added to the fun.

I enjoyed making "The French They Are A Funny Race," and am more than pleased to admit that the picture has done extraordinarily well "There is also Belgium," said my French all over Europe ... including Madagascar. In some highly literate areas, it has broken a few records. I more than anxiously await the reaction from the United States.

tributing Inc.

"FRENCH A FUNNY RACE" **TO HAVE LOCAL** PREMIERE

"The French They Are A Funny Race," hilarious new comedy hit scheduled to have its local premiere this at the Theatre, marks director Preston Sturges' first film in six years. A rollicking spoof on the manners, morals and matrimonial attitudes of the French as seen through the eyes of an Englishman, the film stars Martine Carol, Jack Buchanan and Noel-Noel.

Based on Pierre Daninos' sidesplitting best-seller "The Notebooks of Major Thompson," "The French They Are A Funny Race" casts Buchanan as a Colonial Officer at one time married to a reserved British wife, and now wed to an attractive French Beauty (Martine Carol). His observations on the differences between the two provide the film's hilarity.

Scenarist-director Sturges, remembered for his Academy Award winning "The Great Mc-Ginty" and "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek," made the film in English, without the use of dubbing, though it was produced abroad. Continental Distributing Inc., is releasing it in the United States.

FF-32 M. Taupin (NOEL-NOEL) finds the newly installed device which

FRENCH THEY ARE A FUNNY RACE" will have its local Theatre, and is being released in the United States by Continental Distributing Inc.

BIOGRAPHIES

THE SCENARIST AND DIRECTOR - PRESTON STURGES

During his twenty-some-odd years in the movie capital of the world, writer-director Preston Sturges earned himself the titles of "The Wonder Boy of Hollywood" and "Hollywood's Bad Boy." He turned out a succession of hits including "The Lady Eve," "The Great McGinty," "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek," and "Hail the Conquering Hero" which, according to the U.S. Treasury, categorized him as earning the third highest salary in the country.

He then made one unsuccessful film, "The Beautiful Blonde From Bashful Bend," and migrated to Paris. "The French They Are A Funny Race," based on Pierre Daninos' hilarious best-seller "The Notebooks of Major Thompson," marks his first film in six years, and it clearly carries the stamp which earlier won him fame and fortune.

Sturges was born in the United States but was raised and educated in France. He began his career as an assistant stage manager with a production of Oedipus Rex. His first taste of success came with the Broadway play "Strictly Dishonorable," which ran for sixty-four weeks to packed houses. In Hollywood he wrote scripts for over a dozen pictures until, in 1940 he decided to direct as well. The result was "The Great McGinty," which won him an Academy Award.

Now that he is back again behind the cameras, Sturges is bubbling with plans; he has two original stories which he plans to put into production, and is expected to arrive in the United States shortly in connection with the American Premiere of "The French They Are A Funny Race." The welcome mat from Hollywood is already out.

his versatility, in 1921 he starred in a London Revue entitled "Faust on Toast" in which he sang, danced, clowned and recited from "Oedipus Rex"!

America's first acquaintance with Mr. Buchanan was in 1923 when he appeared with Bea Lillie and Gertrude Lawrence in Andre Charlot's "Revue," which was presented at the Times Square Theatre. During the next twenty years he made innumerable Atlantic crossings, and in 1946 he starred in the Broadway production of "Harvey." Most recently he appeared with Fred Astaire and Cyd Charise in M-G-M's Technicolor musical "The Bandwagon."

Last season Mr. Buchanan made his television debut on the Bob Hope Show, and he has since been deluged with offers. He has accepted a few, and will do a series of guest appearances this fall.

In addition to his other activities, he is the owner and managing director of the Garrick Theatre, London.

MARTINE THOMPSON - MARTINE CAROL

Martine Carol, one of France's most popular and wellknown actresses, makes her debut in her first English speaking part in "The French They Are A Funny Race." A long time favorite on both sides of the Atlantic, Miss Carol is well known for her provocative seductive portrayals in such films as "Caroline Cherie," "Adorable Creatures," "Beauties in the Night" and many others.

Miss Carol began her theatrical career while a student at the College of Neuilly sur Seine studying dental surgery. She participated in school productions and shortly after registered in Roland Manuel's Dramatic Academy. Under the stage name of Maryse Arley, she joined Gaston Baty's repertory company and for several seasons toured the provinces. She later came to Paris, and while studying under Rene Simon, attracted the attention of H. Clouzet, who offered her a part in "La Chatte,' by Collette. The film was not made, but with Clouzet's recommendation, she auditioned for Richard Pottier's "La Ferme Aux Loups." Shortly thereafter, Miss Arley became Martine Carol and rose to international fame. Other films in which she has appeared include "The Bed," "Madame Du Barry," "Nana" and "Lola Montez."

M. TAUPIN - NOEL-NOEL

Noel-Noel has endeared himself to his countrymen because of his expert portrayals of that warm-hearted, amusing, spirited, typical Frenchman who is filled with the little oddities of his countrymen. As such, it was almost inevitable that he would be selected for the role of M. TAUPIN in "The French They Are A Funny Race."

Noel-Noel began his theatrical career in 1921 as a songand-dance man and quickly became a leading star of the cabaret circuit. A literal bundle of talent, he wrote, sang, and played his own piano accompaniment as he toured the leading vaudeville stages of France.

In 1932, he made a brilliant cinematic debut in "Papa Sans Le Savior" and in 1949 starred in "Les Casse Pieds" which won him the coveted Grand Delluc Cinema Award.

While capturing these histrionic laurels, he turned his hand to screen writing, and was responsible for the production and screen adaptation of George Feydeau's "Un Fil a La Patte," in which he also starred. His performance as a bandmaster was hailed by French newspaper critics as a creation that will stand unsurpassed for years to come.

Noel-Noel is currently working on two screen plays which are scheduled to go into production before the end of the year.

THE AUTHOR - PIERRE DANINOS

In early 1954, a mysterious English Major appeared in the pages of the Paris newspaper LE FIGARO. He took Paris by storm. The Major, Marmaduke Thompson, was the creation of Pierre Daninos, and his book, "The Notebooks of Major Thompson, on which "The French They Are A Funny Race" is based, has climbed to the top of the best seller lists in the United States, England and several countries on the continent.

Pierre Daninos was born in Paris in 1913. His first job

MAJOR THOMPSON - JACK BUCHANAN

Jack Buchanan, Major Thompson in "The French They Are A Funny Race," has covered virtually every phase of theatrical endeavor with distinction; he has starred in drama, comedy and musical comedy; he has appeared on the legitimate stage, vaudeville; motion pictures, radio and television; and he is a writer, producer, director and theatre owner.

Mr. Buchanan made his first appearance before an audience in 1912 in "Grass Widows" and he has been in front of the footlights one way or another ever since. To demonstrate

Recently Miss Carol signed a five year contract with a major American studio whereby she will make one film per year in Hollywood. She is married to director Christian Jacques, and resides in Paris.

was as a foreign correspondent in the United States. After working for various newspapers, he joined the French Army in 1939 and took part in the retreat from Dunkirk as a liason agent with a British unit. Between 1942 and 1952 he wrote numerous books of humor. Then came Major Thompson and the rest is history.

Printed in U.S.A.

CREDITS

PRESTON STURGES' **"THE FRENCH** THEY ARE A FUNNY RACE" (based on Pierre Daninos best seller "The Notebooks of Major Thompson") starring MARTINE CAROL JACK BUCHANAN NOEL-NOEL Written and **Directed** by PRESTON STURGES Produced by ALAIN POIRE & PAUL WAGNER A GAUMONT PRODUCTION A CONTINENTAL DISTRIBUTING, INC. RELEASE

Director, Preston Sturges * Screenplay, Preston Sturges * Produced by Alain Poire and Paul Wagner . Original Story by Pierre Daninos * Camera, Maurice Barry and Christian Matras * Editor, Raymond Lanny

CAST

Major Thompson	JACK BUCHANAN
	MARTINE CAROL
M. Taupin	NOEL-NOEL
Miss Ffyth	TOTTI TRUMAN TAYLOR
	CATHERINE BOYL
	ANDRE LUGUET
Mlle. Sylvette	GENEVIEVE BRUNET

RUNNING TIME: 82 Minutes



FF-12

Ursula (CATHERINE BOYL), having had one drink too many, laughs giddily at Major Thompson's (JACK BUCHANAN) joke in this scene from Preston Sturges' new comedy, "THE FRENCH THEY ARE A FUNNY RACE" based on Pierre Daninos' hilarious best-seller "The Notebooks of Major Thompson." The film, a witty sophisticated spoof on the morals, manners and matrimonies of the French, also stars Martine Carol. "THE FRENCH THEY ARE A FUNNY RACE" Theatre. The film is being released in the United States by Continental Distributing Inc.

FF-15

Mat 2A

Mat 2B

Martine (MARTINE CAROL) raises an accusing finger to Major Thompson (JACK BUCHANAN), who has returned home somewhat pixilated after an evening of cabareting in this scene from Preston Sturges' new comedy "THE FRENCH THEY ARE A FUNNY RACE" based on Pierre Daninos' hilarious best-seller "The Notebooks of Major Thompson." The film, a witty sophisticated spoof on the morals, manners and matrimonies of the French, will have its local

FRENCH THEY ARE A FUNNY RACE" is being released in the United States by Continental Distributing Inc.

EXPLOITATION

WINDOW-TIE UPS

The title "The French They Are A Funny Race" lends itself to unlimited merchandise promotions with products from France: perfumes, lingerie, wines, automobiles, women's fashions, etc. Window tie-ups with local merchants can be worked out along the following lines:

> "THE FRENCH THEY ARE A FUNNY RACE" INDEED!... and you'll

BUT THE FRENCH THEY ARE A WONDERFUL RACE when it comes **SELECTION IN TOWN!**

STREET BALLY

Here's a simple street bally that will attract a great deal of attention. Dress a pretty girl in a bikini bathing suit (or an apache costume, or some other French costume which is attractive and revealing) and have her parade through town carrying a sign reading:

> "THEY SAY 'THE FRENCH THEY ARE A FUNNY RACE'"

SYNOPSIS (Not for Publication)

In an otherwise happy atmosphere of marital bliss, Major Thompson (Jack Buchanan), retired English Army Officer, and Martine (Martine Carol), his attractive French wife, carry on a continuing nationalistic verbal exchange on the relative merits of their respective countries. The discussions reach the boiling point when it concerns the education of their son, Marc.

Over Martine's strenuous objections, the Major arranges for Miss Ffyth (Totti Truman Taylor), his housekeeper during his term of service in India, to become Marc's governess. Martine is appalled to discover that his education now begins at 6:00 A.M. with gymnastics to the accompaniment of Miss Ffyth's shrill whistle and barking commands-not unlike a drill sergeant in charge of a group of trainee soldiers.

Despite these disconcerting differences, Martine suggests to the Major that his observations of the French personality characteristics might make an amusing series of articles, and that he should discuss them with a publisher they met at a dinner party, M. Fusillard (Andre Luguet).

M. Fusillard, strict and dictatorial, agrees to the experiment, but makes it crystal clear that he will brook no nonsense about French national pride.

The Major begins his notebooks with some tongue-in-cheek remarks on the pride of the French in their national shrines-and the efforts of his friend M. Taupin (Noel-Noel) to locate the catacombs.

Returning home, the Major finds Martine furious because Miss Ffyth has begun to usurp her maternal prerogatives. A heated discourse, covering the virtues of Joan of Arc and the genius of Napoleon ensues, concluding with Martine's insistence that Miss Ffyth leave the house immediately. The Major refuses, insisting he is honor bound to keep her unless she corrupts the child-or shows disrespect for England.

Next morning the Major dictates to the attractive Mlle. Sylvette (Genevieve Brunet) his observations of M. Taupin while driving a car ("France at the Wheel") and the importance most Frenchmen attach to shaking hands ("The Land of the Handshake").

Satisfied with his accomplishments for the day, the Major enters his apartment and is advised by the maid that Martine has gone out for the evening. She has, however, made arrangements for his dinner; boiled mutton. With a roar the Major announces that one of the reasons he left England was boiled mutton-and he stomps out into the night determined to get beautifully drunk. Once more the Major tries to change the course of his thoughts and dictates to Mlle. Sylvette M. Taupin's preoccupation with his health ("The Liver Complaint") and M. Taupin's difficulties in renewing his passport ("The Realm of Subdivision"). In an attempt to effect a reconciliation with Martine, the Major takes her to dinner. At her insistence he details his relationship with his first wife, Ursula (Catherine Boyl), how they met at a horse show; his proposal; his mother-in-law's wedding night instructions and Ursula's untimely end. The Major resumes work on his Notebooks, commenting on M. Taupin's appreciation of the female sex ("Women Seen by Frenchmen and Englishmen") and the Frenchmen's emphasis on punctuality ("Sweet Land of Mistrust and Credulity"). Martine meantime has reached the end of her patience; the cook and housekeeper have quit and Miss Ffyth has assumed full responsibilities in the kitchen. Completely dejected, the Major tells M. Fusillard he intends to return to England. Before he can advise Martine, however, she phones him with the thrilling news that Miss Ffyth has inherited 500,000 rupees from the Maharaja and must return to India to collect it. The Major arranges a farewell party and tells Martine that a great Parisian newspaper has agreed to publish his articles under the title of "The Notebooks of Major Thompson." Martine climaxes the occasion with the news that Marc will soon have a little brother.

BOOK-TIE UP

"The French They Are A Funny Race" is based on an internationally known best-seller "The Notebooks of Major Thompson," written by Pierre Daninos and published by Alfred Knopf. Your local bookstores will be happy to work out a mutually advantageous promotion.



2 Col. x 15 Lines - 30 Lines

Mat No. 201



An Englishman devotes as much time to the ort of making tea

as a Frenchman does to the art of making love!

BOMBSHELL





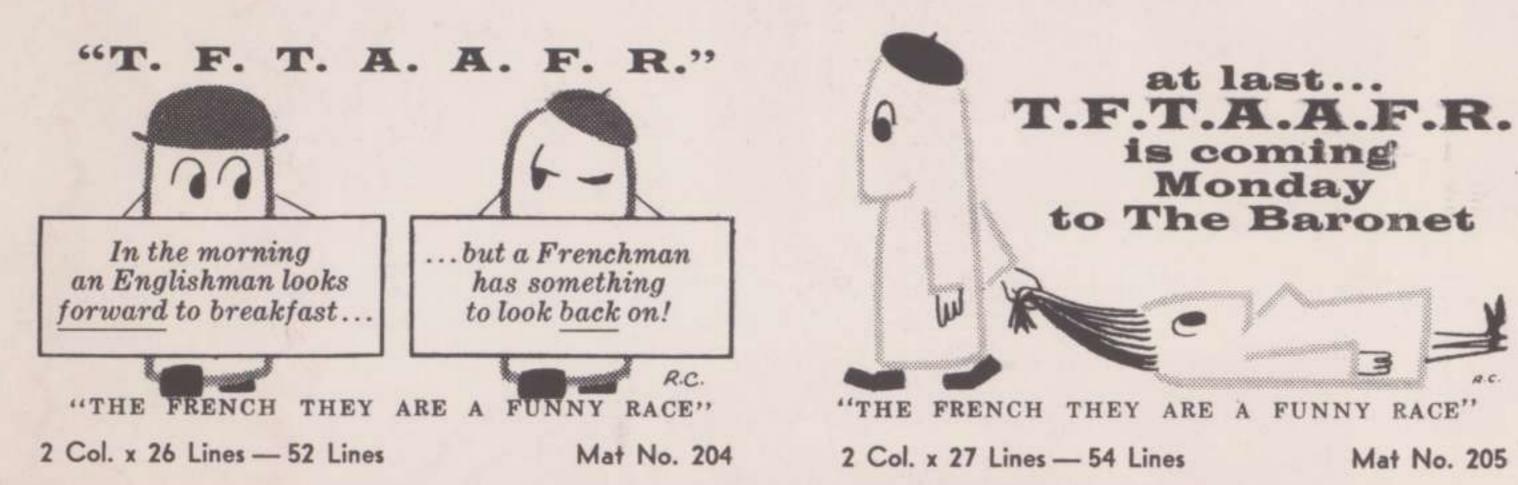
50 # 37060













"The French they Finny Race"

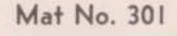
Written and Directed by PRESTON STURGES

starring MARTINE CAROL . JACK BUCHANAN . NOEL-NOEL

produced by ALAIN POIRE & PAUL WAGNER - A GAUMONT PRODUCTION - A CONTINENTAL DISTRIBUTING, INC. RELEASE

3 Col. x 108 Lines - 324 Lines

THEATRE







"A FRESH AND HEARTY LAUGH!" —Time Magazine

VIFRESH, WITTY,

AND IRREVERENT, BEST NEWS OF THE YEAR!" Saturday Review

"A Funny Picture... A Funny Race Indeed!" -Newsweek

"GALVANIC AND AMUSING!"

- Crowther, N. Y. Times

The Ward and a second and a sec

-Zinsser, Her. Trib.

