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ARE PARENTS PEOPLE? (Paramount, 1925) Directed by Malcolm St. Clair; with Betty Bronson, Adolphe Menjou, Florenve Vidor, Lawrence Gray.

One of the most silken of all the comedies-of-manners that followed in the wake of Lubitsch's success with "The Marriage Circle". With those flood-gates opened, all of the directors (St. Clair, Monta Bell etc.) who had longed to make films in the Lubitsch manner suddenly found their opportunity, and being more familiar with American mores and morals than he, for a (brief) time overtook him in charm and elegance. This is a story of divorce and teen-age problems, actually material for a talkie tv soap opera today, but done with warmth, humor and such a strong visual sense that subtitles are kept to a minimum, and there are none at all for almost a reel into the film, by which time all of the characters and the basic plot situation have been established pictorially. Far from least, it provides another (rare)

opportunity to enjoy the youthful vivacity and geace of Betty Bronson, who had been launched into stardom the year before with "Peter Pan". 3 1 hr.

- War. Everson