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"GONE WITH THE WIND" SCHEDULED IN FESTIVAL OF MOVIE MILESTONES

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Clark Gable as Rhett Butler and Vivien Leigh as Scarlett O'Hara, one of the screen's most memorable love teams, as they appear in David O. Selznick's production of Margaret Mitchell's "Gone with the Wind." The all-time-great picture, winner of ten Academy Awards, is now presented by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in new Wide-Screen and Metrocolor splendor, adding immeasurably to the film's spectacle and dramatic impact. Leslie Howard and Olivia de Havilland are also starred in a giant cast.

Gone With the Wind Mat 1-D

When David O. Selznick purchased film rights to Margaret Mitchell's novel, "Gone With The Wind," in 1936, he began a massive project that resulted in one of the greatest and most successful motion pictures of all time.

The imperishable Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer presentation is once more on view as part of "MGM's Fabulous Four," a special film festival of classics including "Doctor Zhivago," "Ryan's Daughter" and "2001: A Space Odyssey" playing consecutive one-week engagements. Of special interest is the technological miracle which recently elevated the audio-visual quality of "Gone With The Wind" to today's impeccable standards.

In 1935, a representative of Macmillan Publishing House went to Atlanta, Georgia, searching for new authors. An unassuming housewife named Margaret Mitchell refused to let him see what she

laughingly called "the great American novel," which she had been writing for nine years. She finally relented, but soon wired, "I've changed my mind. Send it back." Instead Macmillan sent a check for \$5,000. At that point, the manuscript was titled "Tomorrow Is Another Day." The famous final title was inspired by an Ernest Dowson poem she spotted in an anthology of English verse. "Gone With The Wind" was published June 30, 1936.

Typically, Margaret Mitchell told friends, "I do hope they sell 5,000 copies so they won't lose money." In six months, a million copies were sold and the American Civil War epic received the 1937 Pulitzer Prize.

The public took unprecedented interest in Selznick's casting decisions. Clark Gable was the choice of 98 per cent of those who wrote the studio suggesting candidates for the Rhett Butler role. Gable was signed in August, 1938. Vivien Leigh was signed to portray Scarlett O'Hara in January, 1939, climaxing a two-year international search in which 1,400 unknowns and favorite stars were interviewed and 90 actually tested. Olivia de Havilland and Leslie Howard were set to play Melanie Hamilton and Ashley Wilkes.

With the astonishing Atlanta fire sequence filmed as a preliminary late in 1938, official starting date for the picture was January 26, 1939. The last day of filming with the stars was November 11, 1939. Victor Fleming directed. MGM celebrated the world premiere December 15, 1939, fourteen years after Margaret Mitchell sat down at a typewriter to help occupy her time.

"Gone With The Wind" scored ten Academy Awards, a record until MGM's "Ben Hur" received 11 in 1959. Academy honors were bestowed for Best Picture of 1939; Vivien Leigh as Best Actress; Hattie McDaniel as Best Supporting Actress; Fleming for Best Direction; the Thalberg Award to Producer Selznick for "most consistent high quality of production"; a special award to production designer William Cameron Menzies; screenplay; art direction; film editing; color cinematography.

David Selznick paid \$50,000 for the film rights, largest price ever paid for a first novel at that time. After the movie had been released, he voluntarily sent Miss Mitchell an additional check for \$50,000! The author, who assiduously struggled to escape the limelight, was struck by a taxicab in 1949 and died five days later.

Once she was asked if she would write another book.

"Lawzy, no," she half joked, "Look at all the misery this one has caused me."

"RYAN'S DAUGHTER" SCHEDULED IN QUARTET OF MGM CLASSICS

Following David Lean's legendary success with "Doctor Zhivago," "The Bridge On The River Kwai" and "Lawrence of Arabia," the celebrated director yearned for a more intimate project. The result, "Ryan's Daughter," is part of "MGM's Fabulous Four," a special film festival of classics scheduled to play consecutive one-week engagements.

"Ryan's Daughter" stars Robert Mitchum, Trevor Howard, Christopher Jones, John Mills, who won an Oscar for his characterization, Leo McKern, and Sara Miles in the title role. Other masterpieces in "MGM's Fabulous Four" are "Gone With The Wind," "2001: A Space Odyssey" and "Doctor Zhivago."

David Lean's recent pictures seem in sharp contrast to his earlier efforts, though all have become cinema landmarks. Each, however, reveals the director's intense, detailed control which prompted Robert Mitchum to claim, "Working with David is like building the Taj Mahal out of toothpicks." Many of the director's early films were made with Anthony Havelock-Allan who produced "Ryan's Daughter." Together, they created "In Which We Serve," "This Happy Breed," "Blithe Spirit" and "Brief Encounter," all from Noel Coward plays. They later teamed in bringing to the screen the Dickens' novels, "Great Expectations" and "Oliver Twist."

After the ordeal of translating "Doctor Zhivago" to film, Lean was unsuccessful in his quest for a suitable new property to tackle. He sought an intensely emotional drama, though one laid on a large canvas. An original story was required. He turned again to Robert Bolt, who had written screenplays for "Lawrence of Arabia," "Doctor Zhivago" and "A Man For All Seasons." They spent ten grueling months in perpetual conference in Rome before deciding they had the desired story.

The setting is Ireland in 1916, with the epoch-making events of the Easter Rising and the Western Front unfolding on the horizon of a coastal village. "Ryan's Daughter," played by Sara Miles, is a twenty-year-old experiencing the tragicomedy of growing up, adjusting her aspirations to reality without abandoning them altogether. Robert Mitchum stars as her diffident husband, a schoolteacher twenty years her elder. Christopher Jones portrays the dashing British officer who completes the tragic triangle. Trevor Howard is the village priest who understands, but cannot condone, the girl's actions. John Mills is the mute, misshapen idiot who irrationally yearns for her from afar, while Leo McKern is Mr. Ryan, whose worship of his daughter is finally disastrous.

David Lean assembled many of his favorite artists and technicians for the filming. Freddie Young won an Academy Award for the "Ryan's Daughter" cinematography, his third Oscar with Lean. Maurice Jarre, honored by the Academy for scores on two Lean pictures, composed music for the MGM drama.

After examining every mile of Ireland's rugged West Coast, Lean finally selected the tip of the Dingle Peninsula in County Kerry for his fictional world. With mountains on three sides and the Blasket Islands looming up to the west, 20,000 tons of rough-hewn granite and other indigenous stone were hauled over the hills to construct 40 full-scale structures. The site became the western-most village in the European land mass.

In this setting, nearly a year in the making, one of the great motion picture love stories came to life with the singular Lean touch. What more fitting tribute to the man and his genius than the fact "Ryan's Daughter," his most recent release, is already considered a classic?



Sara Miles stars in the title role of "Ryan's Daughter" as a dream-ridden girl living in a remote, tiny Irish village, but she aspires to greater things.

Ryan's Daughter Mat 1-A