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Film Reunites "Oscar" Winning Combine, Ford And Maureen O'Hara

Lovely Actress Gives Superb Performance As Spirited Colleen

SINCE it was director John Ford who provided the stepping stone to stardom for red-headed Maureen O'Hara in a picture which won for the director an Academy Award, it was inevitable that the same Irish combination should make a picture on Irish soil, and one which also bids well to take honors in the Academy category. The production is the much heralded Republic film in Technicolor, "The Quiet Man," which opens at the..... Theatre next....., and in which Maureen is teamed with John Wayne.

In 1942, Ford summoned this striking newcomer to America to play the leading feminine role in "How Green Was My Valley," which ultimately won him the Academy Award and launched Maureen on a spectacular career in motion pictures. Later the two were together again in Republic's "Rio Grande."

English Debut

There was no real motion picture apprenticeship for Maureen. She made her first appearance on the screen in the feminine lead of "Jamaica Inn" with Charles Laughton. This brought her to the attention of American producers and she has been prominent on the Hollywood celebrity rosters for some time.

A product of the "auld sod," Maureen was born in Dublin, Ireland, her birthdate, August 17th. This birthday was celebrated on the set of "The Quiet Man" during filming at Republic and was participated in by her two brothers, Charles FitzSimons and James Lilburn, in addition to Ford and the cast.

Maureen made her first stage appearance at the age of five when she was pressed into service to read a short poem between the acts of a school play. After that, little Maureen began to study dramatic art and never swerved from her goal.

Many Honors

When Maureen was 12, she was invited to appear on a radio program, and earned her first money as a professional entertainer. By the time she was 14, she had been enrolled in the world-famous Abbey Theatre School, had several fine performances to her credit and had won every award and medal bestowed in Ireland's frequent play festivals and dramatic contests.

Following one of these productions, Miss O'Hara, then 17, received a letter from an English film company, asking



"THE QUIET MAN" (1K)

her to go to London immediately for a screen test. It was there Charles Laughton saw her and offered her a contract which she signed.

Maureen tasted her first film fame at the London premiere of "Jamaica Inn." It then appeared that London was to be her home for a long time and she leased a house for seven years in Hyde Park. She had lived in it only six weeks when she was offered a Hollywood film role so she closed up her house and sailed for America and Hollywood.

Her screen career in the film town is now history — glamorous history, climaxed by her co-starring role with John Wayne in Republic's powerful production of Maurice Walsh's story, "The Quiet Man."