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by René Ray's performance. George (*Fred Conyngham*) a boastful waiter, fancies himself as a cabaret star and goes to London, where he is given rooms by Mary (*Miss Ray*) but falls for the more sophisticated charms of La Chinoise (*Germaine Aussey*), a singer. When she rejects him after leading him on, he attacks her and thinks he has killed her. Mary shelters him, but the vamp proves to have survived and George is offered a cabaret contract.

RoC *Lawrence Hanray, Leslie 'Hutch' Hutchinson, Penelope Parkes, Edwin Ellis, Charles Oliver, Fred Groves, Bela Mila, Tony de Lungo, Gwen Farrar, Sydney Culver, Phil Thomas, Quinton McPherson, Reginald Long, Dino Galvani, W. Scott Harold, Bombardier Billy Wells, Bruno Barnabe, Jack Beaumont, Frederick Bush, The Caligary Brothers.*

THE BELOVED VAGABOND (1936) [3]

Dir Kurt (Curtis) *Bernhardt*. Prod *Ludovico Toeplitz*. Scr *Wells Root, Arthur Wimperis, Hugh Mills, Walter Creighton*, from a novel by *W.J. Locke*. Ph *Franz Planer*. PC *Toeplitz Productions*. Dis *Associated British*. 78 mins. Cert A. Bilingual versions

The critics had divided opinions on this; one of them thought it 'the best work of Maurice Chevalier's career', another found the film 'trite and tedious'. *Chevalier* plays a man who gives up his sweetheart (*Betty Stockfeld*) to enable her to marry a count and save her father from ruin. He hits the road, teaming up with *Blanquette* (*Margaret Lockwood*), an orphan whose grandfather founded an orchestra that he takes over. His old sweetheart, now a widow, re-emerges, but he realizes that he is in love with *Blanquette*.

RoC *Desmond Tester, Austin Trevor, Peter Haddon, Charles Carson, Cathleen Nesbitt, Barbara Gott, D.J. Williams, (C.) Denier Warren.*

THE BERMONDSEY KID (1933) [3]

Dir *Ralph Dawson*. Prod *Irving Asher*. Scr *W. Scott Darling*. PC *Warner Bros.* Dis *First National*. 76 mins. Cert A

Boxing drama about a fighting newsboy (*Esmond Knight*) who finally gets the chance to fight his friend and idol, *Joe Dougherty* (*Ellis Irving*). Strangely *Dougherty* is out of shape and *Eddie*, the newsboy, knocks him out - then finds that his manager, *Lou* (*Ernest Seston*) has bribed *Toots* (*Eve Gray*) to keep *Joe* out of training as much as possible. *Eddie* knocks *Lou* out as well - and arranges a rematch.

RoC *Pat Paterson, Clifford McLaglen, Syd Crossley, Winifred Oughton, Len Harvey, George Cook, Anna Lee.*

BETRAYAL (1932) [3]

Dir, Prod and Scr *Reginald Fogwell*, from a play by *Hubert Griffith*. PC *Fogwell Films*. Dis *Universal*. 66 mins. Cert A

Wealthy *John Armytage* (*Stewart Rome*) whose wife *Diana* (*Marjorie Hume*) married him for his money, offers no defence to a charge of murder, lest he drag her name into disrepute, after shooting a man he believed to be her

lover. *Diana* perjures herself in court to clear her husband: only he will now know that she was not having an affair.

RoC *Leslie Perrins, Henry Hewitt, J. Fisher White, Frank Atherley, E.H. Williams, Charles Childerstone.*

BEYOND THE CITIES (1930) [3]

Dir and Prod *Carlyle Blackwell*. Scr *Blackwell, Noel Shannon*. PC *Piccadilly*. Dis *Paramount*. 70 mins. Cert A

American director-actor *Carlyle Blackwell* also starred in this melodrama, as sportsman *Jim Campbell* who, swindled out of his money by an unscrupulous lawyer, tries to make his fortune in Canada as a rancher. He helps *Mary* (*Edna Best*) whose plane crashes, the accident leaving her with amnesia. *Jim* advertises her whereabouts, and it turns out that her father is the crooked lawyer. . . .

RoC *Alexander Field, Lawrence Hanray, Helen Haye, Eric Maturin, Percy Parsons.*

BIG BUSINESS (1930) [2]

Dir and Prod *Oscar M. Sheridan*. Scr *Sheridan, Hubert W. David*. PC *Sheridan Films*. Dis *Fox*. 76 mins. Cert U

Lacklustre musical, spun out to reach its 76 minutes. The story, concerning business partners who rejuvenate a night-club by staging cabarets with top-line talent, is merely a peg on which to hang a series of music-hall acts. LP *Frances Day, Barrie Oliver, Anthony Ireland, Virginia Vaughan, Ben Welden, Jimmy Godden, Billy Fry, Elsie Percival, Leslie 'Hutch' Hutchinson, Leon Cortez with Giggie, The Sherman Fisher Girls, Arthur Roseberry and His Symphonic Syncopated Orchestra.*

BIG BUSINESS (1934) [2]

Dir *Cyril Gardner*. Prod *Irving Asher*. Scr *Gardner, Claude Hulbert*. PC and Dis *Warner Bros.* 54 mins. Cert U

Unambitious starring vehicle for *Claude Hulbert*, featuring him as *Reggie Pullett*, who throws in his lot with two burglars, and agrees to pose as a financier whom he resembles. He finds that the financier has swindled *Sylvia* (*Eve Gray*), but that his firm is on the verge of bankruptcy. By sheer luck, *Reggie* corrects the situation, saves the firm and wins *Sylvia*. RoC *Ernest Seston, James Finlayson, Hal Walters, Maude Zimbla.*

BIG FELLA (1937) [2]

Dir and Prod *James Elder Wills*. Scr *Fenn Sherie, Ingram d'Abbes*, from a novel by *Claude McKay*. Ph *Cyril Bristow*. PC *Fortune Films*. Dis *British Lion*. 73 mins. Cert U

Joe, a lazy vagabond (*Paul Robeson*), is known to all on the *Marseilles* waterfront through his superb singing voice. He is hired to search for a kidnapped boy and finds him, but the boy, having actually run away, threatens to name *Joe* as the kidnapper if he takes him back. Later, the boy really is kidnapped, but the resourceful *Joe* turns the situation to his advantage, and manages to retain his life of indolence. Below-par vehicle for *Robeson* with a couple of songs.

RoC *Eldon Grant, Elisabeth Welch, Marcelle Rogez, Roy Emerton, Joyce Kennedy, Eric Cowley, James Hayter, Lawrence Brown.*

THE BIG NOISE (1936) [2]

Dir *Alex Bryce*. Prod *John Findlay*. Scr *Gerard Fairlie*. Ph *Stanley Grant*. PC and Dis *Fox British*. 65 mins. Cert U

Laughs are few in this comedy about two crooked company directors who try to make a lowly employee (*Alastair Sim*) the scapegoat for their dishonesty. He's well on his way to obliging them when the company secretary (*Norah Howard*) comes to his rescue by exposing the conspirators.

RoC *Fred Duprez, (C.) Denier Warren, Grizelda Hervey, Viola Compton, Peter Popp, Howard Douglas, Edie Martin, Desmond Roberts, Reginald Forsyth and His Band, Cap the Goat.*



Alastair Sim in The Big Noise (1936)

THE BIG SPLASH (1935) [2]

Dir *Leslie Hiscott*. Prod *Herbert Smith*. Scr *Michael Barringer*. PC *British Lion*. Dis *MGM*. 66 mins. Cert U

Comedy about a millionaire (*Finlay Currie*) reluctantly engaged to a gold-digger (*Marguerite Allan*). He hires a married man to pose as him, but becomes involved with crooks and ends up marrying the gold-digger after all.

RoC *Frank Pettingell, Drusilla Wills, Ben Welden, Percy Parsons, Roy Royston.*

BILL AND COO (1931) [3]

Dir and Prod *John Orton*. Scr *Orton, Billy Merson*. Ph *Walter Harvey, Horace Wheddon*. PC *BIP*. Dis *Wardour*. 42 mins. Cert U

Short, revue-style entertainment as *Bendo the Strong Man* dreams of romance and a honeymoon with *Nita*, a gorgeous entertainer.

LP *Billy Merson, Nita Underwood, Hal Gordon, Leslie Hamilton, Nan Kennedy, Herman Darewski, O.K. Wise, Eddie Earle.*

BILL'S LEGACY (1931) [2]

Dir *Harry J. Revier*. Prod *Julius Hagen*. Scr *Leslie Fuller, Syd Courtenay*. PC *Twickenham*. Dis *Ideal*. 57 mins. Cert A

After paperhanger *Bill Smithers* (*Leslie Fuller*) has inherited a legacy, he and his wife (*Mary Clare*) move into smart society. He buys a racehorse from a countess (*Angela Joyce*), but the horse is a turkey, his bank fails and