

Keith's Offers A Three-Star Screen Bill

**Holiday Fare Excels
'Time' Film Applauded
'Ferdinand' Scores**

"PECK'S BAD BOY WITH THE CIRCUS." RKO-Radio picturization of a story based on the characters created by G. W. Peck, adapted to the screen by Al Martin, David Boehm and Robert Neville, featuring Tommy Kelly and Ann Gillis, with Edgar Kennedy, Billy Gilbert, Benita Hume, Spanky MacFarland, Grant Mitchell, Nana Bryant, William Demarest, Wade Boteler, Fay Helm and Louise Beavers. Directed by Edward F. Cline. Reviewed Thursday afternoon by Sally Stroud. At RKO-Keith's Theater.

"Peck's Bad Boy With the Circus," in all his adolescent deviltry, has a difficult time being RKO-Keith's chief attraction. The "March of Time," in one of its most timely presentations, and "Ferdinand, the Bull," Walt Disney's newest cartoon, crowd it closely.

The "March of Time," using its famed pictorial journalism to best advantage, has montage shots of various United States Embassies and diplomats. The "Good Neighbor" policy is shown to be one which we can ill afford to ignore. Secretary Hull definitely states the objectives of the Foreign Service, which aims are shown being developed in the fledgling diplomats, the pick of the Nation's young men. German and Japanese invasion of South American trade markets is explained, with a clear delineation of the challenging difficulties which beset this country's desire to establish good relations with her southern neighbors.

The applause which greeted the conclusion of this pictorial editorial can be taken to denote that the audience knows what is going on and welcomes the further clarification of current problems.

Ferdinand Is Sissy

From Monro Leaf's famed tale of the bull that preferred leaving the strenuous pastimes to his fellows and found nothing nicer than lying beneath a cork tree, sniffing flowers and being oh, so quiet, Disney has fashioned another of his incomparable vignettes of animal life. Ferdinand is a character one will not soon forget, since his personality is developed with care, and each of his traits presented lovingly. For sheer drama, salted liberally with humor, we can imagine nothing more hilarious than the hair-tearing wrath of the matador who cannot stimulate Ferdinand to battle in the bull-ring, because Ferdinand has found a flower to sniff.

So splendidly is this new Disney synchronized that even Ferdy's mother, a domesticated cow, wears a bell giving off a "La Paloma" ding! as she walks. Ferdinand of Madrid—long may he live!

Tommy Kelly and Ann Gillis, who were Tom and Becky in "Tom Sawyer," grow inches in stature and acting ability in "Peck's Bad Boy, Etc.," the story of a lovable problem child. Taken from George Peck's well loved story, this item about a boy and his parents and how he wins a cherished trophy is good stuff for Thanksgiving or any day.

Tommy Kelly, as Willie Peck falls in with a circus and loses his heart to Fleurette, bareback rider, feeds sleeping potions to some lions gets a chariot ride with Edgar Kennedy holding the reins, climbs a greased pole at the conclusion of a dizzy boys' marathon and scores emphatically in his second movie role.

A Lady Lion Tamer

Benita Hume, Billy Gilbert, "Spanky" MacFarland and Mr. Kennedy have some good scenes and act them ferociously well. Mr. K. performs his "slow burn" act. Mr. G. Splutters and Miss Hume swishes around in tights, as a lady lion tamer. Spanky is himself.

There are some authentic flashes of circus life, with agile acrobats and roustabouts furnishing flavor. If you think a lion act could not be funny, howlingly funny, you have never seen Kennedy cracking the whip over a trio of yawning big cats.

In the newsreel are shots of the mass exodus of Canton's population before the entry of Japanese troops, words from the representatives of Great Britain, Canada and the United States on the reciprocal trade agreements and football flashes.

Give thanks for a country where you can see a frank picturization of your national State Department's aims and methods, where men and children can laugh together at a silly bull, where there is time for remembering a childhood when Peck's bad boy made it impossible to be a Sunday school sissy—and for a swell bill at Keith's.