

# 'Carmen Jones' One Of Most Exciting Hollywood Musicals

By WRISTON LOCKLAI

"Carmen Jones," now blazing across the Carolina's CinemaScope screen, is one of the most exciting musical ideas Hollywood has ever produced.

It is a pulsating, unshinied retelling of Bizet's opera. The opera's Spanish and gypsy locales have been replaced by a military base in the South and by the seamy side of Chicago; the movie Carmen works in a parachute factory instead of a cigarette factory; Don Jose is just plain Joe, an Army corporal stationed in Jacksonville; the opera's Micaela becomes Cindy Lou, the tragic fate takes place out of doors; the opera's Micaela is a beautiful girl in a brown dress just inside a boxing arena.

Oscar Hammerstein II wrote the lyrics for "Carmen Jones." Almost all the Bizet music is intact, but Mr. Hammerstein has, of course, made the words fit the characters and situations of this adaptation. Thus, the famous "Habenera" becomes "Dat's Love," the opera's "Seguidilla" is heard as "There's a Cafe on De Corner; the wild gypsy song is now "Beat Out Dat Rhythm on a Drum" and the celebrated "Toreador Song" is offered by the boxer, Husky, as "Stan 'Up and Fight." Micaela's touching aria is simply "My Joe."

One of the major accomplishments of "Carmen Jones" is its tremendous drive and enthusiasm. The scene in Billy Pastia's night club—the opera's Tavern of Lillas Pastia scene—is an eruption of color and unrestrained gaiety. The

CARMEN JONES, a Twentieth Century-Fox production, directed by Otto Preminger, stars Pearl Bailey, Oscar Hammerstein II, and Wynne Burke. The film is a musical adaptation of Bizet's opera, set in a military base in the South and by the seamy side of Chicago.

wonderful Pearl Bailey sings "Beat Out Dat Rhythm on a Drum" and the screen almost smokes with the dancing and brilliant color. "Pearl, incidentally, has never had so much money to wear in her entire career as she does in "Carmen Jones." And she seems to be having a wonderful time!

In the title role, Dorothy Dandridge is as fiery and animal-like as any Carmen in history has been. She swishes and wriggles through "Dat's Love," her romantic scenes with Joe are as tantalizing and honest as any ever filmed in Hollywood. Miss Dandridge's voice is not actually used for the singing, although she can sing very well. The voice heard is that of Marilyn Horne. The dubbed-in voice for Singer Harry Belafonte belongs to Le Verne Hutcherson. Marvin Hayes sings for Joe Adams. Pearl Bailey sings for Pearl Bailey. Enough said.

**HYPOCOTIC ACTOR**  
Mr. Belafonte is a thoroughly winning actor in the role of Joe. His personality and voice—when he is singing in supper clubs or as he did so well recently in Chapel Hill—are hypnotic.

From the moment the audience hears the stirring overture and as the titles are flashed on the screen in front of a flame with a rose in the center, it knows the presentation is to be something out of the ordinary. It is, in every way. For this is an all-Negro cast photographed in the most illuminating color.

Our only complaint is not against the movie. It is against the musical adaptation. The Bizet music is not Negroized and to have Negroes suddenly burst into operatic arias is as unnatural as opera stars

singing "My Sandman." In the screenplay, Carmen and Joe and Cindy Lou—the latter beautifully sung by Olga James—all speak the English language as well as anyone could. Yet, in their songs it's "Dat's Love" or "There's a Cafe on De Corner," or "Beat Out Dat Rhythm on a Drum." This is the only note of concession to be detected in "Carmen Jones."

While we're only the subject, we've never felt Gershwin's great opera "Forgy and Bess" is in any way Negroed or that it is believable, although on the stage it is the most powerful production we have ever seen.

The finest Negro musicals made have been "Stormy Weather" and "Cabin in the Sky." They had Cab Calloway, Ethel Waters, Lena Horne and Pearl Bailey. They were Negroes who sang the way they felt and expressed themselves accordingly. In "Carmen Jones" their acting is natural, but their singing is foreign to them as any music can be. It is wonderful bit of entertainment; it has imagination and great style. But it loses its vitality.

**SPRUCE PINE**, Feb. 4—Mack Watson, manager of the Spruce Pine office of the Carolina Power and Light Co. has announced that members of various civic clubs and organizations here, including the town of board of aldermen, have been practically unanimous in voting for the town of Spruce Pine to enter the 1955 "Piner Carolina" sponsored by his company throughout the territory in which it operates.

The Rev. Robert W. Jordan, pastor of Spruce Pine Presbyterian Church, has been named chairman of this year's local participation in the contest; Leo Howard, co-chairman; Mrs. G. B. Sprague, in charge of the required scrapbook; and Mrs. Samuel English in charge of publicity.

**A VALLEY DOLLAR**  
Dollar means valley. It comes from the German Thaler, the most popular coin of the 16th century, made in Joachimsthal (the valley of Joachim), in Bohemia.

**THEATRE SCHEDULE FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1955**  
ALBEMARLE ROAD DRIVE-IN—Double Feature—Make Hate to Live and Count the Stars.  
RELYEIDER—3 Cents in the Fountain.  
CENTER—The Bamboo Prison.  
DIANE FRENCH—Double Feature—Call of the Wild and Captive Women.  
NORTH 29 DRIVE-IN—Double Feature—The Yellow Mountain and The Intronuder.  
PINEVILLE RD. DRIVE-IN—Double Feature—The Yellow Mountain and The Intronuder.  
SOUTH 29 DRIVE-IN—Double Feature—The Yellow Mountain and The Intronuder.  
WINDY HILLS DRIVE-IN—Double Feature—The Yellow Mountain and The Intronuder.

**JANE RUSSELL UNDERWATER!**  
Starts Friday! Center!

**MANOR**  
HELD OVER THE BIG WEEK!  
BARBARA STANNYCK  
"THE VIOLET MEN"  
AND THEIR WOMEN!  
Shows Today 1:35-3:15

**DOUBLE TAKE**  
By BOB BARNES

**THE YELLOW MOUNTAIN**  
LEI BARBER MALL POWERS HOWARD DUFF

**PINEVILLE RD. DRIVE-IN**  
SINATRA—sears the screen... a snoring mad-dog killer!

**NORTH 29 DRIVE-IN**  
SINATRA—sears the screen... a snoring mad-dog killer!

**CHARLOTTE**  
Please See It From The Beginning!  
Shows Daily At 1:25-3:20-5:10  
7:35-9:30  
Faxes Valid On This Attraction!

# LOOKING AT HOLLYWOOD

## Atlanta To Be Locale Of Joan's 'Queen Bee'

By HEDDA HOPPER

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 6—One in "Queen Bee" at Columbia will be Brian Keith.

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Miss Crawford



MISS CRAWFORD

think people around here know Lincoln's dead.

Etzel had more fun working with Bing Crosby and Frankie Sinatra than anybody else; "Frankie's a lamb and a sore Bing." She hadn't called Crosby at the hospital because she "didn't want to intrude."

I complimented her on the story of her life now running serially in a national magazine, and she said, "Well, you can tell it's written by me. Nobody wrote it for me."

ROBERT SHERWOOD, who is writing the script for "War and Peace" for Mike Todd and Fred

For Finest VENETIAN BLINDS CALL ED 2-1010

Do FALSE TEETH Rock, Slide or Slip?

ALBEMARLE RD. SUSPENSE! A THRILLER! DOROTHY MCGUIRE STEPHEN MCNALLY

Make Haste to Live

# RADIO PROGRAMS

MONDAY, FEB. 7, 1955

Table with columns for station, time, and program name. Includes WBT-1110, WNCN-610, WSOB-1240, WIST-930.

BUY OR RENT AN EMERSON TV SET

FARM NEWS and WEATHER

WMMT-FM-106.9 Mc.—Mt. Mitchell

WVOK—1480 KC

WBT, Charlotte—Channel No. 3

WLOS, Asheville—Channel No. 13

LAST DAY NOEL COWARD'S "Tonight at 8:30"

VISULITE Shows 7 & 9 p.m.

CHARLOTTE'S LEADING THEATRES

CAROLINA

IMPERIAL

DILWORTH

Battle Cry

2 GIANT HITS

PREHISTORIC WOMEN

THE BRIGGS AT TOKO-RI

PLAZA

NOW! CENTER

JANE RUSSELL UNDERWATER!

MANOR

DOUBLE TAKE

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ALBEMARLE RD.

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WUNC, Chapel Hill—Channel 4

WFSB-TV, Greenville—Channel No. 4

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