

At the Movies with the Foudroyant



Between the two World Wars, when our ship was called the Foudroyant, she made appearances in the movies as these newspaper articles reveal:

Saturday 24 December 1927 The Bury Free Press

“ Great Holiday Attraction at Bury Playhouse.

A beautiful and thrilling film version of Nelson, our nation's hero, is to be the holiday attraction at the Playhouse, Bury St. Edmund's, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next, with matinee on each day. Only a British company could have produced a life of “Nelson” with such dignity and accuracy as is seen in this new production, released by New Era.

The film has been approved by the Admiralty, and by Admiralty permission, too, many of the most thrilling scenes were actually filmed on board such famous ships as the “Victory,” the “Foudroyant,” and “Implacable.” An expert on naval period uniforms worked throughout the production of the film in close touch with the director, so that every detail should be correct.

The picture opens with the birth of Nelson, gives a glimpse of his school days, his marriage, and then sweeps on with him from victory to victory, until after having touched delicately on his romance with Lady Hamilton, finishes with his death at Trafalgar.

Cedric Hardwicke brings Nelson to life on the screen with great skill and understanding. Here, before the audience is Nelson himself, living again through his victories, his disappointments, his romance – and at the end of the film one realises that there is more drama and thrill in the life of our national hero than in any film story of the modern type.

Gertrude McCoy appears as Lady Hamilton, while Gladys Harvey and Johnny Butt are also in the cast, which is all-British. Frank Perfit gives a sympathetic rendering of the part of Captain Hardy.”

Monday 5 September 1938 Portsmouth Evening News

“SEA CADETS IN TRAINING-SHIP
“Action at Sea”
PORTSMOUTH HARBOUR SCENES

Dressed like early Nineteenth Century seamen in battle on the high seas, and looking like pirates of old, a party of sea cadets on board the old frigate Foudroyant, in Portsmouth Harbour, yesterday, tried to fire two of the old guns which are left on the break of the poop.

These guns were made about 120 years ago, and to make it look as though they were in action again, smoke bombs were used and attempts were made to get a recoil.

At any rate, the cadets presented an action at sea in the old sailing days, and a record was made by cameramen, who took a film in conjunction with the Navy League which is to popularize the sea cadet movement and help the Implacable Fund.

In contrast with the historic scene, modern life on board a training ship was depicted – reveille, breakfast, Church parade, which was conducted by Col. Harold Wyllie, O.B.E., physical exercises, club swinging, climbing the rigging, and boat pulling and sailing. They also danced the hornpipe in the rig of Nelson's day.

Versed in Seamanship

The four officers and 56 cadets of the Kingston Steadfast Corps were fine film actors. They are well versed in seamanship, and because they hold a high place among Sea Cadet Corps they were chosen for the making of the League film. The operations were conducted by Cadet Lieut. W.J. Muddock, assisted by Mr. John Wyllie and the ship's staff.

The shooting of the scene was watched by Commander E.L. Hill, R.N., of the Navy League, and in an interview with an Evening News representative he said that the League, of which Lord Lloyd is President, had 60 sea cadet units throughout the country. A great expansion had taken place during the last 12 months, and the result was that there were nearly 5,000 cadets in training. “

COMMERCIAL ROAD SAVOY Portsmouth	AN THEATRE APOLLO Southsea	ALBERT ROAD AN THEATRE CARLTON Cosham
TOM LINN AT THE ORGAN. PHONE 4381.	CAFE. PHONE 4885. FREE CAR PARKS AND ARDENT EARPONES AT THE THREE THEATRES. SUNDAYS AT ALL THEATRES. DOORS OPEN AT 5 p.m. COMMENCES AT 5.30 p.m.	CARLTON: CHANGE OF PROGRAMME THURSDAY - "THE DRUM" (U.) IN TECHNICOLOUR.
TO-DAY AT THE THREE THEATRES — "THERE'S ALWAYS A WOMAN" (A.) "STAR OF THE CIRCUS" (U.)		
SUNDAY FOR 7 DAYS.	SUNDAY FOR 7 DAYS.	SUNDAY FOR 4 DAYS.
BARBARA STANWYCK — HERBERT MARSHALL		
"ALWAYS GOODBYE" (A)		
SAVOY—SUN.: 6.35, 9.10. DAILY: 3.20, 6.25, 9.30.	APOLLO—SUN.: 6.40, 9.10. DAILY: 3.35, 6.30, 9.30.	CARLTON—SUN.: 6.40, 9.5. DAILY: 3.35, 6.25, 9.20.
Special Film of "THE BOYS ON THE TRAINING SHIP FOUDROYANT" in Portsmouth Harbour		
RICHARD GOOLDEN — VIC OLIVER		
"MEET MR. PENNY" (U)		
SAVOY—SUN.: 5.30, 8.0. DAILY: 1.45, 4.30, 8.0.	APOLLO—SUN.: 5.30, 8.0. DAILY: 2.10, 5.5, 8.5.	CARLTON—SUN.: 5.30, 7.55. DAILY: 2.10, 5.0, 7.55.
BOTH FEATURES SHOWN TWICE ON SUNDAY AT THE THREE THEATRES.		

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