

New York Critics Like Marilyn in 'Bus Stop'

BY RICHARD GRIFFITH

NEW YORK, Sept. 17—If the report of a local columnist is true, that Marilyn Monroe is ailing in London as a result of seeing rushes of "The Sleeping Prince," then the New York film critics' reviews of her work in "Bus Stop" ought to cure her the instant she reads them. If, as seems more likely, the report is untrue, then the reviews should at least make up for some of the spoofing she has taken because of her determination to become a "serious" actress. For, say the critics, she has achieved just that.

As one of them put it, "Marilyn Monroe has finally proved herself as an actress in 'Bus Stop.' She and the picture are swell! All you have to do to test our comment is to hop around to the Roxy, and if you don't find Miss M. a downright Duse, you'll find her a dilly, anyhow.

More Than Wiggle

"Joshua Logan has got her to do a great deal more than wiggle and pout and pop her big eyes and play the synthetic vamp in this film. He has got her to be the heat-up B-girl of William Inge's play even down to the Ozark accent and the look of pellagra about her skin. He has got her to be the tinselled floozie the semimoronic doll, and what's most important, he has got her to light the small flame of dignity that sputters pathetically in this chippie and to make a rather moving sort of her.

"This may not sound too stimulating to those who prefer their Miss Monroe looking healthy and without anything flaming inside her, except a mad desire. But don't think because the little lady creates a real character in this film, she or it are lacking in vitality, humor or attractiveness."

'Humor and Pain'

But this and similar raves on the "new Monroe" were by no means the whole story on "Bus Stop." To boil it down, reviewers liked every thing about "this very entertaining movie—certainly one of the best to come out of Hollywood this year." They found in it "a mixture of humor and pain that is very touching. One minute it is uproariously funny, the next minute tender and fragile and somehow Director Logan preserves the delicate balance."

In addition to excellent performances from each

member of the supporting cast, critics hailed the "wondrous new actor named Don Murray, a fresh, welcome talent." If anything is ailing him, reading his notices should cure him, too.

The Globe Theater presented the British-made "Satellite in the Sky," and according to film reviewers here, it fell to earth with a dull thud.