

MOVIES



ON "DÉSIRÉE" SET, she mounts ladder to view Marlon

MARILYN MEETS BRANDO

Our candid photos show what happened when Monroe surprised "Napoleon"

by Louis Berg
This Week Movie Editor

IT is our great pleasure to report the historic meeting between Marilyn and Marlon (supposedly Hollywood's greatest eccentrics). It was on the set of "Desiree," where Mr. Brando was playing the role of Napoleon.

Miss Monroe, despite the fact that she was appropriately gowned in a Directoire type of costume, was not in the movie. She belonged on the set of Irving Berlin's "There's No Business Like Show Business," and between scenes decided to visit her old friend Jean Simmons on the "Desiree" set.

Marilyn hadn't expected a conversation with the great man, nor had Marlon expected so welcome a surprise. The meeting was enthusiastic.

What people had expected to transpire between the two, it is hard to imagine, but there could not have been more excitement if it had been Napoleon Bonaparte and Josephine. Cameramen and press agents were milling up and down. Grips downed tools and visitors crowded as close as they dared.

Who Writes Their Stuff?

WHAT actually took place was the following sparkling exchange.

Mr. Brando: "We met once before, remember, in New York. We were introduced by Elia Kazan."

Miss Monroe: "I could never forget. It was raining so hard."

Someone suggested that they exchange toasts, using the ginger ale substituted for champagne in the ballroom scene of Brando's picture.

"To a beautiful girl and a fine actress," said Mr. Brando, acclaimed by many as the finest actor in Hollywood.

"To a man whom everybody recognizes as a great actor," responded Miss Monroe.

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COSTUMED AS BONAPARTE, he assumes an imperial air



WHILE grips and cameramen gawked, they joked



HIS LEADING LADY is Merle Oberon as Josephine

PHOTOS BY DENNIS STOCK



AS NAPOLEON, Marlon's almost a look-alike — although taller

MARILYN MEETS BRANDO

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The whole thing was all very old-world. "Aren't you cold?" asked Mr. Brando solicitously — a chill, air-conditioned wind was blowing through the studio.

"Oh, no," Miss Monroe answered archly. "I am never cold. I always take the precaution of keeping well covered."

Discreet titters from the bystanders.

For some electric reason, Miss Monroe and Marlon Brando have captured the imagination of movie fans more than any new names of this generation. Maybe their reputations for whackiness helped. Perhaps people expected him to spill his champagne glass on her beautiful white gown, or — as he has been known to do — place a raw egg in his

palm before they shook hands. Nothing of the sort transpired.

The truth is, both Marilyn and Marlon have changed. Mr. Brando these days is positively refined. He hasn't insulted a fan-magazine writer in six weeks. His evenings are spent in studying chess — incidentally, he took over your **THIS WEEK** movie editor rather handily in their last game.

Miss Monroe is still the "late" Marilyn Monroe. She keeps her average of being at least an hour-and-a-half late for every appointment. She confused your editor completely on their last meeting. It was scheduled for three in the afternoon and she showed up at five.

The New Monroe

WE PULLED out our watch. "Oh," she remarked innocently, "but I thought you said three o'clock."

These are but flashes of the old Marilyn. Since her marriage to Joe DiMaggio, she has become sedate and responsible, at least by comparison. Demure is the word for it.

About "Desirée" and Brando's role in it — aside from a slight alteration (putty) on his nose, almost no make-up was needed for an almost complete likeness. Between takes, Brando brooded as if he were on Elba. Our guess is that it will be another first-class performance.

Merle Oberon plays Josephine, and Jean Simmons has the title role of Napoleon's early inamorata, who according to 20th Century-Fox, and history, married General, later Prince, later still Sweden's King, Bernadotte.

Hollywood is going in so heavily for historical films these days that it's a bother keeping up with the historical facts. All our time is being taken up with research.

We prefer to concentrate on Marilyn Monroe. *The End*



IN TITLE ROLE of "Desirée" is Marilyn's friend Jean Simmons