

New Adventure Drama Sparked By Rod Taylor

"THE HELL WITH HEROES" — Interesting drama of a hero turned profiteer. Stars Rod Taylor, Claudia Cardinale, Harry Guardino, Peter Deuel. A Universal picture in Technicolor. At the Gateway, Boca Raton and Plaza Theaters.

By BOB FREUND
(Amusement Editor)

"The Hell With Heroes" starts out as an ordinary little adventure piece, but picks up interest as it moves rather rapidly into the sterner drama of a man's inner conflict.

It is not the most thought-provoking epic released on this always fascinating subject, but it combines a very personal story with some suspenseful action, and Rod Taylor proves once again that he

is superior to his material.

As a much-decorated World War II hero, Taylor and his buddy Peter Deuel remain in North Africa to run a one-plane cargo service. Pickings are slim, but the two are choosy about whom they deal with.

Along comes Harry Guardino, an American living in lavish comfort in Paris, who proposes the boys ferry some Egyptian cotton from Oran to France. They make a deal, but when Taylor discovers Guardino is a black marketer, he refuses to do any more jobs for him.

Guardino plants dope on the

plane and tips the police, thereby trapping Taylor into steady employment. They make another deal, but Guardino — a true blue rat — murders Deuel and sets Taylor on a determined course of revenge.

Guardino's mistress, Claudia Cardinale, falls in love with Taylor. She's the typical, much-used - and-abused peasant who rose to fame in several nations on assets other than her brain.

Actually, the plot is pulp-fiction good guys and bad guys material, but Taylor is a much more sensitive and feeling actor than his scripts usually foretell. As in the current "Dark of the Sun" he's a man out for a buck, spiritually dead and tired of being a hero. Also, as in that other film, he climaxes his revenge with another brutal fight that is notable for as much mental rage as physical brawn.

Few actors today can match Taylor's virility and talent. His reaction to Deuel's death is not easy for such a tough guy, but Taylor manages it beautifully.

Guardino is a first-class, sometimes likeable, villain, and Miss Cardinale, stunning in this picture, shows she's learning how to react as well as act. Deuel is a real find as Taylor's friend, and the supporting cast, including Kevin McCarthy and William Marshall, is well chosen.

"The Hell With Heroes" is a good film with a moral, but the in-bed love scenes, though tenderly handled, place it in the strictly adult class.

Myles Standish

Hero Turned Smuggler

THIS WEEK we have two adventures pictures from Universal of the type Clark Gable used to make. Neither is world-shaking, but at least they provide what they set out to—escapist entertainment with fast action, adventurous heroes mixed up in shady doings, exotic and beautiful leading women with foreign accents, corrupt but rather attractive heavies. Both, too are throwbacks to a simpler age in direction — no far-out obscurities, no dazzling or annoying jump cuts, no deep Freudian secrets, no symbolism, no plethora of flashbacks, no messages. Each just tells a lively adventure yarn.



In "THE HELL WITH HEROES" at the FOX THEATER and ST. ANN CINEMA, Rod Taylor is, it is true, a bit hung up. He keeps seeing bombers being shot out of the sky in his own mind's flashbacks. That is understandable, because he was a bomber pilot with the Eighth Air Force in World War II and flew many missions. Now, after the war is over, he is trying to make an honest buck running a cargo airplane with his pal, Peter Deuel.

But there are always people in pictures like this who won't let a man just sit back and make an honest buck. Harry Guardino, who was a wheeler-dealer Army sergeant in the war, and has acquired a fortune, a priceless collection of oils, a French chateau, and a beautiful mistress by large-scale smuggling, shows up in Oran, talks Taylor into taking an allegedly legitimate cargo into France, then frames him on a dope-smuggling charge. So Taylor has to fall in line to get money to pay for his seized plane. Guardino's mistress, the bountifully endowed Claudia Cardinale, is also used to keep Taylor in line, and you know what happens there.

As Taylor and Deuel get in deeper and are pressed by an Army intelligence colonel, Kevin McCarthy, who is for some reason involved, the thing goes into more double-crossing and murder. Taylor is realistic in his role, and Guardino is smooth and persuasive. Miss Cardinale also is extremely persuasive, but in a different way.

Search for a Lost Diamond Mine

THE OTHER adventure melodrama is "THE PINK JUNGLE," on view at six theaters. As directed by Delbert Mann, this has a little more humor — at least it's light-hearted in the beginning. James Garner, another rugged he-man, plays a jaunty fashion photographer who lands in a South American jungle village to take photos of top model Eva Renzi (a German import) wearing exotic lipstick shades, against colorful orchids and birds. Their helicopter is immediately

