

Christmas Release, 'Do Not Disturb' Is New Doris Day Romantic-Comedy

Doris Day, America's reigning boxoffice queen, stars with Rod Taylor in the 20th Century-Fox romantic-comedy, "Do Not Disturb" in CinemaScope and DeLuxe Color opening at the Theatre. Set in England, the film's cast also includes Sergio Fantoni and Hermione Baddeley with Reginald Gardiner, Maura McGivney and Aram Katcher.

Doris Day and Rod Taylor play an American married couple who are transferred to England by Taylor's employers. There, the combination of British customs and business pressures head their marriage straight for Her Majesty's divorce courts. The humorous misunderstandings and romantic maneuvering are plentiful in this, as in all other, Doris Day comedies.

Doris Day, Hollywood's number one boxoffice star for the past three years, and a gifted comedienne of gilt-edge proportions, continues her amazing assault on America's funnybone in "Do Not Disturb." Unknown except as a band singer before 1948, today Miss Day is sitting right on top of the entertainment world as both an actress and recording artist. Her most recent motion pictures are "The Thrill of It All," "Move Over Darling" and "Send Me No Flowers."

Rod Taylor, who now has motion picture commitments for the next three years, first won public recognition in the TV series, "Hong Kong." Recently seen in "Fate is the Hunter" and "Young Cassidy," Taylor has merged as a highly competent actor who is achieving a considerable following among both men and women who like and admire his rugged, masculine approach to acting. Once filmdom's most popular bachelor, Taylor is now married and a father.

Italy's handsome and debonair Sergio Fantoni, co-stars in "Do Not Disturb" as the dashing antique dealer who tries to win Doris Day's heart, but winds up with a black eye for his efforts. Fantoni, right behind Marcello Mastroianni in Italy's popularity polls, first came to America two years ago to appear with Paul Newman in "The Prize." He then co-starred with Frank Sinatra in "Von Ryan's Express" before taking up his "Do Not Disturb" chores.

Hermione Baddeley, nominated for an Oscar for her characterization of the blowsy mistress in "Room at the Top," adds another memorable performance to her illustrious career as a wealthy and mischievous English widow in "Do Not Disturb." She has recently appeared in "Mary Poppins" and "The Unsinkable Molly Brown," and starred on Broadway in Tennessee Williams' "Milk Train" for which she earned immense critical praise.



MOTORING IN THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE are Doris Day and Rod Taylor in this scene from the 20th Century-Fox romantic-comedy, "Do Not Disturb" in CinemaScope and DeLuxe Color opening at the Theatre. Taylor plays an American businessman transferred to England, while Doris Day is his well-meaning, but sometimes meddlesome wife. Ralph Levy directed.

Rod Taylor Cast In New Mold For Comedy, 'Do Not Disturb'

As Doris Day's husband in "Do Not Disturb," Rod Taylor is experiencing a definite departure from his usually rugged roles. The film, a 20th Century-Fox release in CinemaScope and DeLuxe Color opening at the Theatre, is a romantic-comedy in which Taylor portrays a hard-driving executive in the woolens industry.

"As Doris Day's husband I get pretty mad a few times," he laughed, "but we don't have any brawls or rough action. In fact, the roughest action for me happens when a goat wanders into our country home in England and knocks us down."

This is hardly the type of action the public has come to expect from athletic Rod Taylor. His "Hong Kong" TV series and such motion pictures as "Young Cassidy," "Fate Is The Hunter," "The Birds" and "A Gathering of Eagles" have all featured Taylor in roles quite different from "Do Not Disturb."

"Making a sophisticated comedy like 'Do Not Disturb,'" Taylor said, "is ten times as tough as a rugged, dramatic role. Dramatic action usually seems to flow naturally and smoothly. With comedy, the actor has to work so much harder to make his performance seem natural.

"Doris Day is great to work with," he adds. "No one can

match her all-around talent for sophisticated comedy."

Two gifted stars do not necessarily make for a perfect team. The team of Doris Day and Rod Taylor bears close watching, however.

Director Ralph Levy explains why: "There is a marvelous chemistry between Doris and Rod. They work together so beautifully. There is no ego involved when they're filming a scene. Their only interest is making the scene play to maximum benefit."

"Regardless of how professional and how talented stars are, audiences can usually sense a lack of chemistry between stars. I think when they see 'Do Not Disturb' they will sense that Doris Day and Rod Taylor make a nice team."

Co-starring in the film is handsome Italian actor Sergio Fantoni, whose suave manners and debonair approach threaten to wreck Miss Day's marriage to Taylor.

"He's doing what I'm accustomed to doing in my roles, chasing somebody else's wife," laughed Taylor.

"Do Not Disturb" was produced by Aaron Rosenberg and Martin Melcher and directed by Ralph Levy from a screenplay by Milt Rosen and Richard Breen.