

# Glenn Ford, Nancy Kwan and Rod Taylor

## "Fate Is The Hunter," New Mystery Drama

The baffling circumstances surrounding a tragic air crash are the subjects of "Fate Is the Hunter," Twentieth Century-Fox release in CinemaScope which opens . . . . . at the . . . . . Theatre. The script by Harold Medford is based on Ernest K. Gann's book of the same name, a saga of the airways by the same man who wrote "The High and the Mighty" and "Island in the Sky."

Glenn Ford stars as Sam McBane, the man ordered to investigate the causes of a jet airplane disaster in which the only survivor was an airline stewardess, played by Suzanne Pleshette. The dead pilot, played by Rod Taylor, is accused of pilot error, and McBane must vindicate him and the airline. McBane has a personal interest in the matter, since he and the pilot were old friends who served together in Burma during World War II.

But McBane's initial investigations turn up no facts. He can find no logical cause for the accident. McBane knows that the pilot always believed in Fate, insisting that he would die when his time came, and not before. In a number of flashbacks, he is shown escaping death time and time again during the war. Even the beneficiary in his will, played by Nancy Kwan, feels that Fate is the reason for the crash. She thinks that it was the pilot's day to die, and that any investigation is a waste of time.

McBane is inclined to agree with her, but he must pursue the investigation if only to clear his friend's name. Eventually he does uncover the true circumstances behind the crash, vindicating his friend and Fate too.

Co-starred with the above are Wally Cox, Nehemiah Persoff and Mark Stevens. Jane Russell also appears in a cameo role as an actress who entertains the troops in World War II.

"Fate Is the Hunter" was produced by Aaron Rosenberg and directed by Ralph Nelson, of "Lilies of the Field" fame. Photography was by Academy Award winning cinematographer Milton Krasner.



ROD TAYLOR stars as a flamboyant airline pilot who believes in the power of fate in the new drama from 20th Century-Fox, "Fate Is the Hunter" in CinemaScope and opening . . . . . at the . . . . . Theatre.

## Stardom and Marriage Finally Arrive For Australian Charmer, Rod Taylor

Australian-born Rod Taylor, whose latest film is "Fate Is the Hunter," wavered between art and acting while a student at Sydney Technical and Fine Arts College. His parents hoped he would become an artist, and he might have had not fate interceded in the awe-inspiring form of Laurence Olivier. Sir Laurence and the Old Vic Company visited Australia, and when Rod saw a performance of "Richard III," all his professional doubts were dispelled. He had to become an actor.

He gained acting experience and stature in Australian theatre and films, and in 1955 received his first American film assignment—the role of a Welsh soldier in "The Virgin Queen."

Although other movie roles followed, (among them "Giant," "The Catered Affair," "Raintree County" and "Separate Tables,") it was not till he appeared in a dramatic television series, "Hong Kong," that people really began to take notice of the magnetic young actor. The show ran for a season but was not renewed. Ironically, although the series did not succeed, its star did. Countless fan letters poured into the network and the sponsor petitioning that "Hong Kong" be continued. Although the series was not resumed, Rod Taylor's career gained immeasurably from this wide exposure. He was no longer just another actor but screen personality, known to millions of people. Taylor acknowledges a debt of gratitude to TV.

"You have to give people a chance to get to know you, or feel as though they do, through your characterization," he says. "That means being completely open and revealing your particular personality traits. You can't be phony about it because audiences quickly see through any sham. When you're the main character in a continuing series, people begin to accept you, almost as though you were a friend. You enter their living rooms and they develop a hatred (and start throwing things at the screen) but I guess I was lucky."

Following a swashbuckling epic about Sir Francis Drake, "Seven Seas to Calais." ("I wasn't about to be another Errol Flynn!"), Ron won the coveted starring role in Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds." Since then he's been riding high.

"My favorite role to date is the Australian tycoon in 'The V.I.P.'s,' he remarks smilingly. "I suppose it's partly out of chauvinism. It's the first time a native born Australian has played an Australian character in an American film. That's quite a startling achievement, isn't it?"

In "Fate Is the Hunter," a modern aviation drama from 20th Century-Fox, he portrays a daring pilot. There are several new products on his agenda and countless offers he's forced to turn down.

"I love acting but often it takes me to distant climes for weeks at a time. Not that I don't like traveling. But Mary (referring to Mary Hilem, his wife) can't always come along and misses me; why I don't know, since I'm such an awful nuisance around the house. The trouble with her is that she's not only perfectly beautiful but practically perfect, which is quite exasperating for a guy so lacking in virtues."

Whatever virtues he may think he lacks, charm and humor are certainly to be excluded from the list, according to Mary. A non-professional, she has one show business facet in common with her husband—they're both expert flute players. "And that's much more than many married couples have altogether," Taylor whimsically states.



MINUTES BEFORE DISASTER, airline stewardess Suzanne Pleshette, pilot Rod Taylor, and the crew of a great jet airliner brace themselves for a crash in this scene from the 20th Century-Fox CinemaScope drama, "Fate Is the Hunter"