

"Fatty" Has Something to Say

Roscoe ("Fatty") Arbuckle, After
Signing with Mr. Zukor for Three
Years and a Few Millions,
Talks on His Work

ROSCOE (Fatty) Arbuckle, he with the round smile, who has signed, recently, his full name to a contract involving a few millions and three years of his time, said contract bearing the name of Adolph Zukor, party of the second part, acting for and in the interest of Paramount, gathered around him members of the press, one day last week, and told them all about his past, present and future in the comedy game. Roscoe was in pretty much of a hurry for he didn't want to miss the gala festival of the Mardi Gras, held this month at New Orleans. It is reported that this is to be the last Mardi Gras festival which formed a strong argument for Roscoe's hurried departure from New York, whither he had come after signing his contract at Kansas City last week.

Roscoe's chief optimistic note sounded most clearly when he called attention to the success his comedies were having throughout the country and his chief pessimistic note sounded most flat when he deplored the lack of suitable comedy scripts for his line of comedy. "I receive hundreds of scenarios and stories and suggestions and what-not, every week," he said, "and I consider myself fortunate if in going over them I can find one out of the bunch that contains the faintest hope. It is said that 'there is nothing new under the sun.' I heartily agree with the person who uttered those lines—there isn't—or do I expect anything absolutely new or original.

"If the comedy writers of today would only realize this and instead of working out something weird and original (as they think) they would take the 'old and tried,' deal with from a new angle and combine the human touch with this new angle—then I and every other comedian would get something worth considering and worth time and money in transferring to the screen.

“Fatty”

“Time is no object or expense if I have the proper idea to start with. It hasn't got to be fantastical, or weird or superhuman, as most people think who submit scripts for my approval. Just the plain, everyday actions of human beings told in a comedy-way and presented in the comedian's own way. That's what the public wants—something all can understand and something all have seen or can associate incidents in their own lives with.

“Good comedy is in great demand by frequenters of the motion picture theatre. They want to laugh, but first they must be furnished with situations and comedy work that have a laugh in them. That is my purpose in this business. I try and ascertain what the people want and to the best of my ability I try and give it to them in the best way possible, barring all consideration of time and expense so long as to my own satisfaction and those associated with me, I am turning out product that gives this satisfaction.

“According to reports from my comedies received by Paramount and myself, I have succeeded. But I want to go further—I want to give them something they have never had before and something in the comedy line that will bring them back the second, the third and the fourth times, my work is on the screen.

“On my return to the Coast, these matters are to be, as they always have been, paramount in my work—trying for the best that is in me, my staff of assistants and everything connected with the productions of Arbuckle comedies. I am proud of my record for the past years, and I am proud of the manner in which Paramount has handled them and proud of my opportunity to afford comedy amusement for the millions whom I consider my friends and boosters.”

-from The Studio Directory of The Motion Picture News
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ARBUCKLE, Roscoe, actor, comedian, Keystone; b. Kansas, 1887; stage career, on tour in drama and in stock, repertoire; managed own company for 2 yrs. in stock for Morosco and Hartman; m. p. career, began with Keystone, 1913 as extra man at \$3 per day; advanced to regular parts; later played leads and became director; directing and acting for last 2 yrs. “Fatty” in “Fatty and Mabel” pictures. Wght. 285. Studio ad., Keystone, Los Angeles, Cal.