

## MICKEY ROONEY



AT FIVE MONTHS, over-dressed Mickey looks ahead to an acting career.

BECAUSE American moviegoers are never happier than when a curly-headed mopplet sings, dances or acts his way into their hearts, many a youngster out-distances more experienced entertainers in the race to the top of the box-office popularity poll. Last year winsome Shirley Temple held top honors. This year tow-headed, fresh-as-paint Mickey Rooney is king of the mountain. And rocketing to the top of the heap with him is Judy Garland, seventeen year old singing star who got a firm footing on the ladder to fame when she appeared with Mickey in *Love Finds Andy Hardy*. Because these two youngsters are 1940's Champs

of Champs, because they turn in consistently good performances whether they are working together or separately, CLICK's kudo *Click of the Year in Movies* goes to Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland. Rooney, who has been in movies since he was a six-year-old toughie playing Fontaine Fox's famed Mickey McGuire, has become so much a part of the Hardy family that he and his public have difficulty remembering whether Andy Hardy is Mickey Rooney or vice versa. With the production of *Andy Hardy Meets a Debutante*, MGM brings the Hardy series up to nine, is jubilant that a series started with a folksy \$250,000 film in 1937 has so markedly caught the public fancy.

Long before he ever saw Hollywood young Rooney was well on the way to acquiring the poise and audience sense that makes him the actor he is today. That he came up the hard way may account for the fact that the Mick today beats oldsters like Gable, Power and Taylor.

Nineteen years ago Joe Yule Jr., was a very little boy with a flair for comedy. He wowed the burlesque audience when he tottered onto the stage, stole his mother's and father's thunder by singing their songs, piping their jokes. Until he was five Mickey played the vaudeville circuit with his family. After that he and his mother looked hopefully toward the West Coast, landed in Hollywood where Mickey promptly nabbed the role of Mickey McGuire. He retired from that, after seventy-six pictures, at the grand old age of twelve, played bit and extra parts to get further experience.

The kid definitely had something and before very long was cast in such pictures as *Ah Wilderness*, *Captains Courageous*, and *Thoroughbreds Don't Cry*, in the last with Judy Garland. The two youngsters struck up an instant friendship and since then have been together more often than not, dancing and swimming, golfing and having a wonderful time. When they met professionally for the second time it was in *Love Finds Andy Hardy*, the fourth of the Hardy series, which beat all previous popularity records for a Hardy production and convinced the producers that the Garland-Rooney team was a good bet. In *Babes in Arms*, their first musical together, they garnered new laurels and in their most recent joint production, *Andy Hardy Meets A Debutante*, they justify their studio's faith in them, best described by the \$4,000 forked over to Mickey each week and the \$500 that goes to Judy. Mickey, a serious young man in spite of his antics, hopes to realize his life-long ambition by becoming a producer by the time he is twenty-five. If he is as good behind a camera as he is in front of it, his success is in the bag.



AS MICKEY MCGUIRE, Joe Yule, Jr. first appeared in motion pictures, played the role of a 20th Century version of Peck's famed Bad Boy.



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