

OLDFIELD

ROBERTS : DELAWARE



Hollis Wood

Beatrice Roberts, as Night Club Singer, Only Woman in 'The Devil's Party' Cast

BEATRICE ROBERTS once had the title of "The most photographed girl in the World" but she is also an interior decorator by inclination and an actress and singer by profession as you may observe in "The Devil's Party" which comes to the Capitol on Thursday.

Since she was a little girl in Belton, Texas, she has been fascinated by bright colors and unusual arrangement of fabrics. When she went to New York to go on the stage where she started her career as a specialty dancer in the "Ziegfeld Follies," she was often asked by wealthy friends who knew of her other talents to do over their swank apartments.

Miss Roberts has been in only three other pictures. The first of them was "Park Avenue Logger" with George O'Brien. In "The Devil's Party" she has the distinction of being the only woman in the cast.

She plays a night club singer and she didn't even know she was singing until the recording of her voice was made. It happened this way:

A comparatively unknown actress, Miss Roberts went to the studio one day at the request of the director to try out for the part.



The five principals of "The Devil's Party" get together for a sing. They are Paul Kelly, Victor McLaglen, John Gallaudet and Beatrice Roberts and William Gargan at the piano.

He took her over to the studio of Jimmy McHugh and Harold Adamson who were engaged in writing the music for the picture and said to them:

"Play over that new song of yours for Miss Roberts." When she heard "Things Are Coming My Way," her eyes began to sparkle, her body to sway to the rhythm and her voice to hum the melody.

"Try it," suggested the director. She did so without knowing that the sound recording apparatus was working. Then and there they played it back for her and she was given the job, rushed off for a fitting and two days later was standing in front of the cameras.

"If I had known about it ahead of time I would have refused," the pretty lady said later. She had studied voice in New York under prominent vocalists, however, but had never expected to be called upon to use the talent.

Paul Kelly and the Gargan Brothers, Bill and Ed, have been in-



Beatrice Roberts should make a charming hostess for "The Devil's Party," opening at the Globe on Saturday with Victor McLaglen.

Beatrice Roberts Wins 'U' Contract

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 25.—Another leading lady, Beatrice Roberts, has joined the growing contract ranks at Universal.

Latest of a dozen promising young players signed to term tickets in recent months, Miss Roberts comes to the Universal lot with a background of experience on both stage and screen.

Prior to her entry in films, Miss Roberts was a featured Ziegfeld and Dillingham showgirl in New York. She was also a star model, and was once known as America's most photographed girl.

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Paul Kelly and the Gargan Brothers, Bill and Ed, have been inseparable pals off the screen for twenty years, but "The Devil's Party" marks their first joint cinematic appearance during that time.

Two decades ago, these three, mere boys then, appeared in a film called "Kelly Strikes Out," made at the old Vitagraph studio in Brooklyn. Kelly was the juvenile star and the Gargan brothers had small parts. They lived only a block apart, were members of the same "gang" and were banded together against all comers on the Brooklyn waterfront.

Things happened to the boyhood chums after that. Kelly went on from role to role. Years later, Gargan assumed a great statue in pictures, started by his amusing characterization of the butler in Leslie Howard's "The Animal Kingdom." Ed Gargan has also gone to Hollywood and become an actor of small parts.

"The Devil's Party" is one of the most fitting reunions they could have. The story is about another and fictitious waterfront gang who grow up together and remain pals in spite of a divergence of profession that runs all the way from a priest to a night club owner.

Kelly has been at the game pretty long, however. In spite of the fact that he is a very young man, he has been in pictures for nearly twenty-five years. When Paul was 7, David Warfield was preparing to make "The Grand Army Man" and he needed a boy who could whistle, sing and march. He selected Paul. The Vitagraph people saw his performance on the New York stage and tried him out for future roles in their pictures as long as the boy lived close by. In those days, motion pictures weren't what they are now. Expense had to be saved in every manner possible. Paul's first movie part was, we told you, in "Kelly Strikes Out." After that he was known for many years as "The Vitagraph Boy."

When he was 17, he went on the stage playing the title role in Booth Tarkington's "Seventeen." Then came "Penrod" with Helen Hayes after which he was in great demand, playing many leading roles on the stage. He went to Hollywood in 1927. He returned to the stage, however, and in 1930, did what he considers his best role—that in "Bad Girl" opposite Sylvia Sydney.

Because the script of "The Devil's Party" calls for each of the five principals to have child-star doubles for the early sequences showing them as kids on the Brooklyn waterfront, the studio decided that the story wouldn't have much point unless the child doubles really resembled their respective adult counterparts.

In order to accomplish this,

the producers obtained childhood photographs of the five stars from their respective family albums and picked the child actors for the pictures according to their resemblance to the photographs. They chose Mickey Rentschler for Victor McLaglen; Tommy Bupp for Paul Kelly; Scotty Beckett for Gargan; Dickie Jones for John Gallaudet, and Juanita Quigley for Miss Roberts. Then the make-up experts went to work on the youngsters to emphasize their natural resemblances to the stars.

Scotty threw the director, Ray McCarey for a short loss just before the cameras turned one day. McCarey had given directions and was ready to have the cameras roll when young Beckett piped up and said:

"Listen, Mr. McCarey, do I play the scene like I was mean or as if I was just exasperated like you get sometimes?"

McCarey gave up.