FOX STARS OF THE FUTURE (Fox, 1933/34) 2 reels

This short (possibly incomplete, since it finishes without an End Title) was made up purely for showing at sales meetings, and is an inexpensive, un-narrated collection of scenes, screen-tests and master-shots that didn't appear in the release prints quite in this form. It's a little sad to see so many people, now gone, right on the threshold of youth and stardom; old too, to see whom Fox considered star material, and how many didn't make it. The players shown, many of them in Fox films shown at the Huff over the past five or six years, are Pat Patterson (with Spencer Tracy), Herbert Mundin, Helen Twelvetrees (with Tracy), Dick Foran, Rochelle Hudson (with Warner Baxter), Victor Jory, Claire Trevor, Hugh Williams, Sylvia Fross (with John Boles), Siegfried Rumann, Mona Barrie, (with Robert Young), Rosemary Ames and Peggy Fears (with Morris Ankrum) -while the voices of Frank Conroy and James Dunn can also be heard.

Two off-beat 1935 trifles:
SHIP CAFe (Paramount, 1935) Directed by Robert Florey; produced by Harold Hurley; Screenplay: Harlan Thompson, Herbert Fields; Music and lyrics: Ray Noble, Harlan Thompson, Lewis E. Gensler; Camera, Theodor Sparkuhl; art director, Hans Dreier; editor, James Smith; 6 reels
With Carl Brisson, Mary Christians, Arline Judge, William Frawley, Eddie Davis, Imae Courtney, Grant Withers, Harry Woods, Irving Bacon, Fred Warren, Jack Norton

We've shown a lot of Robert Florey films at the Huff in the past, and will show as many more of his Paramount "B"s as we can get with a particularly good one, "King of Gamblers" in the early Fall. His real forte was in adding zip, pace and style to melodramas, but just because he couldn't turn "Ship Cafe" into a thriller handicap him hardly at all. Instead, he takes a routine "B" musical plot and turns it into an imitation of von Sternberg's "Docks of New York". It has far more style than it deserves, and the enthusiasm rubs off on people like William Frawley and Arline Judge too, making it a minor but still most enjoyable little time-killer.

THE MORALS OF MARCUS (Julius Hagen-Twickenham Productions, released by Gaumont-British) Directed by Miles Mander; Screenplay by Miles Mander, Guy Bolton and M. Fowler Mears from the novel by W.J. Locke; Camera, Sidney Blythe; 7 reels

While certainly not a major rediscovery, this long-lost British trifle is in many ways a very surprising one, sprightly, lively and more than a little risque for a film from a staid company in a staid period. Julius Hagen productions were often interesting but unashamedly "independent" and economical. Hagen had his own distribution company, but if a feature turned out particularly well, it was often bought by a major company like Universal, MGM or, as here, Gaumont-British. It doesn't have the polish of the Gaumont films, but it's one they obviously weren't ashamed of, and it still entertains. It's also another perhaps needed reminder of what an interesting writer-director Miles Mander could be on those infrequent occasions when he turned his hand to it. (You may remember his extremely interesting late silent, "The First Born," which he wrote, directed and starred in, from his own play, shown at the Huff a few years back). "The Morals of Marcus" is conventional "Translation of a Savage"-"Taming of the Shrew" romantic comedy, and it tends to get a little more serious as it goes along, but it's enjoyable, off-beat, generally unpredictable, and provides a rare chance to see Lupe Velez in a worthwhile starring vehicle. The print, though very old, is in good condition and fully complete.

Wm. K. Everson