BIG ADVENTURE YARN — John Bentley, Faten Hamama, Anita West and Ferdy Mayne share a dramatic scene in the George Breakston production, “Shadow of Treason”, which opens locally at the Theatre on __________. The Paramount release is the story of a fantastic adventure that spans a continent ranging from the night spots of Trieste to the heart of Africa.

Block No. 5

THE STORY

When Steve (John Bentley) arrives in Trieste he has just the price of a couple of whiskies in his pocket. He finds himself following a determined-looking young lady into a night club, the Orso Bruno. She firmly snubs his overtures, so Steve settles down to watch the floor show, a novel strip-act presented by the proprietress, Tina (Anita West).

Just as the show reaches its climax a man standing behind Steve produces a revolver and takes a shot at the stripper. Steve closes with him and, after a hectic fight, the man escapes. Tina calls Steve to her dressing-room to thank him and admits she is worried at strange things which have been happening to her. She asks Steve to be her bodyguard.

Tina tells him that her father, whom she hardly knew, had sent her money every month in cash. Then, when he died, she received a paper from the bank containing a map and a list of names of people who, her father had explained in a note, would send her money. From that time her life had been in danger.

Steve leaves in the middle of the night to visit the first name on the list, Mario (Ferdy Mayne). Steve bluffa into offering him a sum of money to leave Trieste, an offer which Mario increases substantially when he meets Steve again in the Orso Bruno. Steve declines the money, lets slip he is going to see “others” and, that he is off to Dubrovnik, on the Adriatic coast.

When Steve visits the second man on the list, Litov (Vlado Lieb), he discovers that the mysterious girl whom he followed into the Orso Bruno was Litov’s daughter Nadia (Faten Hamama). Nadia comes to Steve’s hotel room and, threatens to kill him. Steve succeeds in convincing her that they should all string along together, since they must have a common interest in the map which Tina’s father left her.

Mario arrives in Dubrovnik and he, too, is persuaded to join in the search. The remaining name on the list, Michel (John Gabriel), turns out to be that of an unpleasant millionaire yacht owner.

Steve arranges the ill-assorted party shall meet at a Queensland café. While on her way to join the other, Nadia Litov is followed by a thug. Litov, who has been crippled in a serious accident, follows his wheel-chair. A chase through the streets of Dubrovnik ensues, Litov eventually killing the thug, unknown to Nadia. He himself dies in the process.

Steve solves the mystery of the map. Tina’s father has been blackmailing a group of men who were traitors to the Allied cause in World War II. Nadia’s father holds the key to the treasure. Tina’s father, a diplomat in the German, had hidden a vast sum of money due to be paid out to the traitors, together with evidence of their treachery.

The treasure, Steve has discovered, lies buried, together with the evidence, in Somaliland.

The party sails in Michel’s yacht and, arriving in Africa, proceeds to set off on safari. Michel tries to persuade Nadia to join him against the others and, when she refuses, reveals that it was he who crippled her father when he refused to re-join the Nazi cause. Mario saves Nadia from Michel, who succeeds in making off with the safari truck. Escaping from an elephant charge, however, Michel is thrown from the truck when it hits a pile of boulders. He manages to escape before the others catch up with him.

Steve and his companions eventually reach a vast series of caves in the heart of the mountain Lola Laquina. It is here that the treasure and the evidence are buried. Michel, by now demented from his lone trek through the jungle, follows them into the caves, and a gun battle ensues. Michel takes a death fall to hurl the other into a false sense of security. Steve finds the treasure — great piles of £5 notes — and is about to read the document with it when Michel appears on the scene. Steve hurla the bag containing the money at him... and it goes over the cliff edge to vanish into the subterranean waters far below. Michel goes to shoot, but finds his revolver is empty. He steps back to avoid Mario... and himself falls over the edge.

All that is now left is the document listing the traitors. Steve throws this, too, into the swirling waters.

THE CAST

Steve .......................... John Bentley
Nadia .......................... Faten Hamama
Tina .......................... Anita West
Michel .......................... John Gabriel
Mario .......................... Ferdy Mayne
Litov .......................... Vlado Lieb
“SHADOW OF TREASON” IS ACTION-PACKED SUBJECT OF ADVENTURE AND ROMANCE

An exciting new action picture, “Shadow of Treason”, has made film history. It is the first complete co-production between a British and a Yugoslav motion picture company.

The British-based Mark III Scope company co-operated with Triglav Film, which has studios in Ljubljana, to make a colourful story of love and adventure in settings of great beauty.

“Shadow of Treason” tells of the mysterious attempts on the life of a beautiful Trieste night club owner and how they are foiled by a devil-may-care adventurer. The mystery, however, is not solved until an ill-assorted party endure incredible hardship in a trek which takes them to the heart of Africa.

The cast is headed by John Bentley, whose successful career has brought him adventures in many parts of the world. His co-star is a delightful personality whose name spells magic to millions in the Middle East — Faten Hamama, said to be Egypt’s most-prized film star. Faten is the wife of Omar Sharif, the actor who has made such a hit in “Lawrence of Arabia”.

“Shadow of Treason” also introduces lovely Anita West, who plays the night club owner and displays her many talents by performing an exotic dance and singing a catchy new number, “The Power of Love”.

Featured in the picture also are two of Britain’s most versatile character actors, Ferdy Mayne and John Gabriel. Other parts are played by talented Yugoslav performers, including members of some of the country’s most distinguished theatrical companies.

George Breakston, who directed and produced, has spent more than 30 years in show business, although he is still in his early forties. Beginning life as a child radio actor in New York, he gained fame at the age of 13 when he played a leading role in “No Greater Glory”, an outstanding picture in 1933, which won him two major awards.

In less than ten years he was seen in more than 25 feature pictures as well as playing Puck in Max Reinhardt’s Broadway production of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”. During the war he directed and photographed many short training and factual films for the American Army. After his “demob” he decided finally to give up acting for direction, since when he has produced 13 features and over 50 television episodes.

In addition to the song, “The Power of Love”, an exciting theme tune, a lively Cossack dance and other music was specially written for the picture by Martin Slavin, the musical director.

“Shadow of Treason”, a Paramount release, will open at the Theatre on .

JOHN BENTLEY—SCREEN TOUGH GUY SCORES IN “SHADOW OF TREASON”

John Bentley’s new role as “Steve” in the action thriller “Shadow of Treason”, a Paramount release shot in Yugoslavia, is the latest in a series of tough characters portrayed by this popular star.

In film and television series he has already been seen as Paul Temple, The Toff and Inspector Derek.

“Steve is a character who gives me the greatest scope of all”, says John, “for unlike most of the earlier ones, he is a guy who is just as much at home operating on the wrong side of the law as on the right”.

“Shadow of Treason” starts in Trieste, moves to the beautiful walled city of Drubovnik, on the shores of the Adriatic, and ends in Somaliland.

Bentley is something of an authority on Africa now, having made four feature pictures there — “Men Against the Sun”, “Scarlet Spear”, “Golden Ivory” and “Escape in the Sun” — and the popular television series, “African Patrol”.

His latest picture is a co-production between Mark III Scope Productions and Triglav Films, Yugoslavia. George Breakston produced and directed and the picture co-stars Faten Hamama, actress wife of Omar (“Lawrence of Arabia”) Sharif, and introduces lovely Anita West.

“Shadow of Treason” will commence its local run at the Theatre on .
ONE NEW THING AFTER ANOTHER FOR LOVELY FATEN HAMAMA

Faten Hamama, lovely film star wife of Omar Sharif, who scored in “Lawrence of Arabia”, had one new experience after another since she accepted her first role outside Egypt, in the new action picture, “Shadow of Treason”, new Paramount release which opens on at the Theatre.

“When I joined the unit in Bled, in Northern Yugoslavia”, she said, “there was snow and ice everywhere. I had never seen ice before. It’s quite unknown in Cairo. The lake was so completely frozen over”, she added, “that we could walk across it”.

All the same, she was happy to move with the unit from Bled to Dubrovnik, on the Adriatic, where spring was beginning and many of the trees were already in blossom.

Said Faten: “This is a lovely city, and do you know what makes it even more lovely for me? The little streets leading so steeply up look just like Cairo”.

In “Shadow of Treason” she plays the part of a mysterious girl whose love for her father nearly leads her to her death.

Co-starring with Faten is John Bentley and the picture introduces lovely Anita West, a girl with a great future in films. Also in important roles are Ferdy Mayne and John Gabriel. George Breakston produced and directed this co-production between Mark III Scope Productions, London, and Triglav Film, Ljubljana, Yugoslavia.

“SHADOW OF TREASON” STAR RECALLS SOME DANGEROUS MOMENTS

“The trouble about making adventure pictures,” says rugged star John Bentley, “is that one never gets credit for the really dangerous bits, while the scenes which make the audience’s hair stand on end are generally the easiest to shoot.

“While I was making a television series in Africa there was one scene in which I had to get into a wrecked car and check the instruments. While I did this a deadly poisonous snake crawled towards me through the broken back window. And it was all above board, too. I crawled into the wreckage and the snake slithered forward. What’s more, I knew that the only thing between me and trouble was that the snake’s tail was being held out of sight by a grizzled old hunter. I just had to pray that he wouldn’t lose his grip.

“When I saw the scene on the screen I was terribly disappointed. It looked just as though an old piece of rubber hose was sliding towards me!”

John has been in Yugoslavia making “Shadow of Treason” and in this exciting Paramount release, he has plenty of adventurous moments with wild animals. This did not worry him a bit. What did concern him were the chase sequences shot in the narrow streets of Dubrovnik, the medieval walled city on the shores of the Adriatic.

The streets of Dubrovnik are steep and narrow and have hundreds of steps leading up and down.

“My trouble is”, says John, “I have no head for heights and the idea of running down all those steps just terrified me”.

“Shadow of Treason”, which also stars Faten Hamama, beautiful film actress wife of Omar (“Lawrence of Arabia”) Sharif, and introduces Anita West, is a co-production between Mark III Scope Productions, London, and the Yugoslavian company, Triglav Film. It was produced and directed by George Breakston. It can be seen at the Theatre from

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In promoting “Shadow of Treason” plug the outstanding thrills of this action-packed yarn. The spectacular continental backgrounds are another plus factor, affording tremendous exploitation outlets.

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