SUSAN SHAW • DONALD HOUSTON
ALAN WHEATLEY

SMALL TOWN STORY

QUAD POSTER 30" x 40"

GENERAL FILM DISTRIBUTORS, LTD.
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“SMALL TOWN STORY” COLLECTS FULL POINTS

Drama, romance and thrills from the football field blend together effectively to make “Small Town Story,” a fast moving film that scores in every scene. Susan Shaw and Donald Houston co-star, the former giving a first rate performance as a ‘good-time girl’.

Houston appears in one of his best parts as a reformed jaybird who appoints himself as unofficial bodyguard to a small football team’s star player. On the talents of the football star rely the team’s hopes of winning promotion to league football.

Newcomer Kent Walton, as the footballer, turns in a fresh, unassuming portrayal and his scenes with Susan Shaw, who attempts to lure him away from his team, show a promise that bodes well for his future screen success.

Alan Wheatley, as the man determined to prevent Walton’s team achieving promotion, contributes a suave, oily portrait of villainy.

The film builds up to an exciting and unusual climax which contains all the thrills of a breathless car chase, and the suspense of a vital game on the soccer field.

Blessed with an authentic atmosphere and true-to-life background, “Small Town Story” gains much from the use of actual sporting personalities. Denis Compton, as himself, brings an easy charm to the film and BBC commentator Raymond Glenedening is a typically exciting side-light to the action of the film’s final scenes. The football scenes have been smoothly and effectively photographed to add much to the speed of the film as a whole.

Produced by Otto Kreisler and directed by Montgomery Tully, “Small Town Story” never loses the down-to-earth appeal of its subject and combines slick technical work with realistic direction.

Among the supporting cast who add to the punch of this engaging picture are George Merritt, Margaret Harrison, Norman Williams and Richard Wattis.

THE REAL THING

When producer, Otto Kreisler, and director, Montgomery Tully, set out to introduce a realistic sporting atmosphere into their film “Small Town Story,” which has a football background, they certainly went the right way about it.

Apart from having international soccer and cricket star Denis Compton in the cast they also secured the services of famous commentator Raymond Glenedening, who appears as himself in the film. In scenes at the nets of the Middlesex County Cricket Club real life cricketers Sid Brown and Jack Young play prominent parts.

On the football side of the film Denis Compton is backed up by the appearance of many real life members of the Arsenal team, the Millwall team and the Hayes Amateur Football Club.
Half Dutch—but typically English!

Once again, in “Small Town Story,” Susan Shaw brings her own brand of sparkle and freshness to the screen. But, for a change, Susan is seen as a “good-time” girl instead of a normal “next-door-sweetheart.”

The paradox is that although most of Susan’s screen career has been to typify British working girls, she herself is the daughter of a Dutch bandleader.

One of a family of four children, brought up in very moderate circumstances, Susan was faced with the necessity of finding a job when she left school at the age of 16. Her fresh appearance and good features brought her work as a photographer’s model. This was a lucky break for Susan. Her work resulted in an introduction to film producer Sidney Box . . . and Miss Shaw was on the way to film stardom.

Beginning with small parts in such films as “The Upturned Glass” and “Jassy,” Susan soon graduated to bigger roles until she won her first leading part in “It Always Rains on Sunday.”

Her shrewd observation of characters has brought her considerable screen fame since then with star roles in such productions as the “Huggett” pictures, “Quartet,” “The Blue Lamp” and “Pool of London.”

She has made her mark too in the world of theatre and Television, making her first stage appearance in 1951, when she took over Margaret Lockwood’s part in “Peter Pan.”

Only 28 but he’s been Acting Half his Life

Although Donald Houston jumped to film stardom overnight when he was selected from 4,000 applicants to star opposite Jean Simmons in “Blue Lagoon,” he already had some sound theatrical experience behind him.

In fact this 28-year-old Welsh actor made his stage debut at the age of 14 when he took part in four one act plays with the Welsh Boys Travelling Theatre.

He afterwards joined the Oxford Pilgrim Players in London giving performances in St. Paul’s Cathedral and in air raid shelters during the days of the blitz. He was also a member of the Oxford Repertory Company before joining the R.A.F. as an air gunner and wireless operator.

For three years after he was invalided out of the Air Force, Donald worked as a miner (one of the Bevin boys) in his home town of Tonypandy.

He went back to the Oxford Repertory Company on being released from the mines and made his first stage appearance in London during 1947 in “The Master Builder” at the Arts Theatre.

It was in November of that year that his big screen break in the “Blue Lagoon” came. The husky actor has since consolidated his position in our film studios. Among the best known films are “A Run For Your Money,” “Dance Hall” and “The Red Beret.”

Donald is one of those performers who manage to preserve an even balance between their stage and film appearances and although he has been very busy in the world of the cinema, he has still found time to appear in plays in the West End and at the Edinburgh Festival. He also registered forcibly on Television with his performance in “Little Red Monkey.”

“Small Town Story” gives Donald Houston another role to enhance his already solid reputation.

DENIS IS A ‘NATURAL’

Famous already as an international star of cricket and football, Denis Compton may well find himself becoming a star of films too!

The popular sportsman who has been a regular member of England’s test teams for many years, appeared, early in 1953, in the film “The Final Test.”

As the film was about an England—Australia Test Match, Denis naturally played “himself.”

And “naturally” is the right word for it—Denis has an easy confident manner in front of the cameras, and his likeable personality comes across smoothly.

Now Compton is seen on screen again—this time in “Small Town Story.” Once more he appears as “Denis Compton,” but this time the accent is on his football prowess. Denis is seen again in the famous Arsenal colours which he used to wear with such distinction.

One of these days maybe, an enterprising producer will make a film of “The Denis Compton Story.” Wonder who’d get the title role?

PSYCHOLOGY WAS LEFT BEHIND

The worlds of Industrial Psychology and the theatre are far apart, yet the gap between them was bridged by Alan Wheatley.

This popular stage and screen artist began work in the former sphere but threw psychology aside to concentrate on theatrical character work!

An actor who has scored success after success in the West End and on Broadway, Alan Wheatley has also served as a BBC announcer. During the war years he was principal News Reader in the BBC European Service.

He has appeared with the Old Vic and has toured extensively with plays on the Continent and in Scandinavia.

And somehow or other he has found time—since 1937—to appear in numerous films.

His latest film role casts him in rather villainous mood for “Small Town Story,” but in real life Alan is far from the sinister side.

When he isn’t acting he likes nothing better than to relax in his North London home listening to good music on the radiogram.
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SMALL TOWN STORY

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ALAN WHEATLEY

SMALL TOWN STORY

GEORGE MERRITT
DENIS COMPTON
KENT WALTON

1" Single Column Ad Block
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INFORMATION

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