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Looking at 1930s films now, they seem to reflect often a very affluent background, with people dressing for dinner in evening clothes, long dresses, big hotels etc. At the time this did not seem noticeable to me, because it was the custom for middle classes to wear what are now considered formal clothes, and many people 'dressed for dinner' even at home. (RN officers aboard dressed for dinner every night.) 'One' ought not to go to London except in a suit, preferably with a bowler hat! To the working classes the films showed a more remote dream world, no doubt. Here I am simply recording a fact, not stating a message.

Also because of the Hollywood rules there was no explicit sex. It was left to the imagination which I think is preferable to some of what is shown today. (But some of us saw 'blue' films in France! and Alex!)

by David Moore

born 5 March 1917

P.S. My film-going

1930-1932--I would have gone to films with my parents and sister, in Bognor, or mostly in Emsworth. After 1932 I would have gone with other young people, or on my own, or if lucky with a girl friend. Being at boarding school 1930-34 (RN College, Dartmouth) cut down film opportunities, but we were usually shown a Charlie Chaplin film or similar for half-term treat, so there were only holidays in which to see films. 34 to 37- I was in Mediterranean as Midshipman, occasionally we saw films in Malta. 37 to 39 I was in UK on courses or Home Fleet destroyers, so there were more chances to see films then. But music-hall, variety and big band shows (Harry Roy, Tiger Rag etc) and theatre were alternative attractions (not to mention the Bal Tabarin or the Folies Bergères in Paris in 38).

\* We all know about Charles Laughton's preferences now, but NOT at that time.