

# POPULAR CINEMA IN THE 1930s

You may find the following questions helpful in bringing back the memories:

\*About how old were you on the first cinema visit you remember? In about what year would this have been? 8-9 yrs. 1939-40

\*Do you remember anything about the first film you saw? SMIRLEY TEMPLE HIDING IN BOOT OF A CAR

\*Was there a stage in your life when you went to the pictures often? How old were you, and how regularly did you go? AGE 10-20 YRS - ABOUT TWICE A MONTH?

\*Did you have a favourite cinema or cinemas? What did you like about it/them? CLEANLINESS AND SMART-OUTWARD APPEARANCE WERE IMPORTANT.

\*With whom did you usually go to the pictures? MOTHER OR SCHOOL FRIENDS.

\*Did you have any particular favourites among the stars? What did you like about them? ERROL FLYNN, CHARLES LAUGHTON. (FOR MACHO IMAGE) JAMES CAGNEY, HUMPHREY BOGART WERE ALL POPULAR.

\*Were there any films you remember especially enjoying? Why? "SNOW WHITE", "PINNOCHIO" - CATCHY SONGS WERE POPULAR. "SEA HAWK", "MUTINY ON BOUNTY"

\*Did you belong to any fan clubs, collect stars' photos, autographs, etc? NO. "DESERT VICTORY" ("FIRST OF THE FEW" (NOTE PATRIOTIC ELEMENT)) "LADY HAMILTON"

\*Did you read film magazines (like Picturegoer)? If so, which one(s), and how regularly? NO

\*Did you enjoy any spare time activities other than cinemagoing? What were they? GOLF, CRICKET, FOOTBALL (PLAYING & WATCHING) CYCLING, READING, LISTENING TO RADIO.

\*What was it, in general, that attracted to you to the cinema? What sort of place did it hold in your life? What were your feelings about "the pictures"? - CINEMA IN 1940'S (REALLY WHEN I BECAME FULLY AWARE OF IT) ALWAYS ENGENDERED A SENSE OF EXCITEMENT AND MYSTERY - STRONG ELEMENT OF AMERICANISATION - DURING WAR. PATRIOTIC ELEMENT VY. MARKED - NEWS PROGRAMMES - ACCEPTED THAT FOR MANY IT WAS A "TWICE-WEEKLY EVENT" - MY MOTHER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT MORE THAN ONCE A WEEK WAS EXCESSIVE.

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If you would like to write to me with your memories, I shall be delighted to hear from you. And please pass this sheet on to your friends. I can be contacted at:

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Many thanks - and happy cinema-going memories!

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