

# Anita Rivers Becomes Anita Page

And makes good despite the fact that she was Harry Thaw's protege!

By Helen Walker

**H**ARRY THAW'S little protege, Anita Rivers, bids fair to make good in the movies. But it was not, she would have you know, due to the changeable Mr. Thaw that she got her chance. It was in spite of him.

It was, indeed, only by dint of changing her name to Anita Page that she stepped into a contract with M.-G.-M. and a leading rôle with Billy Haines in "He Learned About Women."

This naive, blonde child of seventeen summers was born at Flushing, Long Island. When she grew up, or at least partly up, she developed a yearning to go into pictures. So she betook herself to the New York studio of the Paramount company, where she obtained a bit in "Love 'Em and Leave 'Em." Thus encouraged, she made the rounds of other New York studios with the news that she was a motion picture actress.

An independent concern, yclept Kenilworth Productions, saw her possibilities and signed her for a leading rôle in a bathing beauty comedy called "Beach Nuts." Then they gave her a contract.

Soon after that they announced that the company was going to California to make pictures. This was fine. This was, indeed, just what Anita wanted. So she went home and broke the news to her mother who packed their belongings, gathered up Anita's four-year-old brother and the three of them accompanied Kenilworth Productions to Los Angeles.

There was in the party another actress, Susan Hughes, as well as several men about whose identity Miss Page is still a bit vague. "Officials and directors and camera men and things," is the way she describes them.

When they reached Chicago another man joined them. He was Harry Thaw. Anita, who had never heard of him, was bewildered at her mother's consternation.

"I don't understand yet, just what he is famous for," she says. "Mother told me some—He was mixed up in a shooting scrape a long time ago, wasn't he?" And she adds, "He is a funny man!"

With the advent of Thaw, the glare of publicity focussed itself upon the party. Large headlines informed the world that Harry Thaw was bringing two beautiful girls to Hollywood to make pictures. Of the Kenilworth Productions which Thaw was financing, little was said.

After they reached Los Angeles complications developed. "The company did not want Mr. Thaw's name connected with the enterprises," explains Anita, "and that made him awfully



**She came to Hollywood to play in Harry Thaw's pictures—but he never started making 'em. So the little blonde from Flushing changed her name and got a job playing opposite Billy Haines. Now Anita Page wants the public to forget her unfortunate start in films**

mad! He said if they would not use his name, he would not make pictures. It was all horrid. The papers kept on taking pictures of him with Miss Hughes and me. Mother would try to get into the pictures and then afterward they would cut her out of them. It looked as if Miss Hughes and I had come out here with him alone.

"But the worst of the whole thing was that as soon as his name was connected with us, no one took us seriously. It all became a joke and the world laughed at us.

"Mother kept saying, 'We must get away from these people!' But you see there was the contract I had signed.

"**W**E kept waiting and waiting. Mr. Thaw could not seem to make up his mind what he wanted to do.

"He is a strange person. He seems very nice and was always kind to us—although we really saw him very little. And he has the most wonderful memory! He can remember the littlest things that happened a long time ago—things about pictures. But it is so hard to follow him. He keeps changing the subject all the time. It really takes a very smart person to know what Mr. Thaw is talking about!

"Well—finally they said they were going back East. They had decided not to make pictures right away. It seemed they could not release them or something. And he would not do anything unless they used his name.

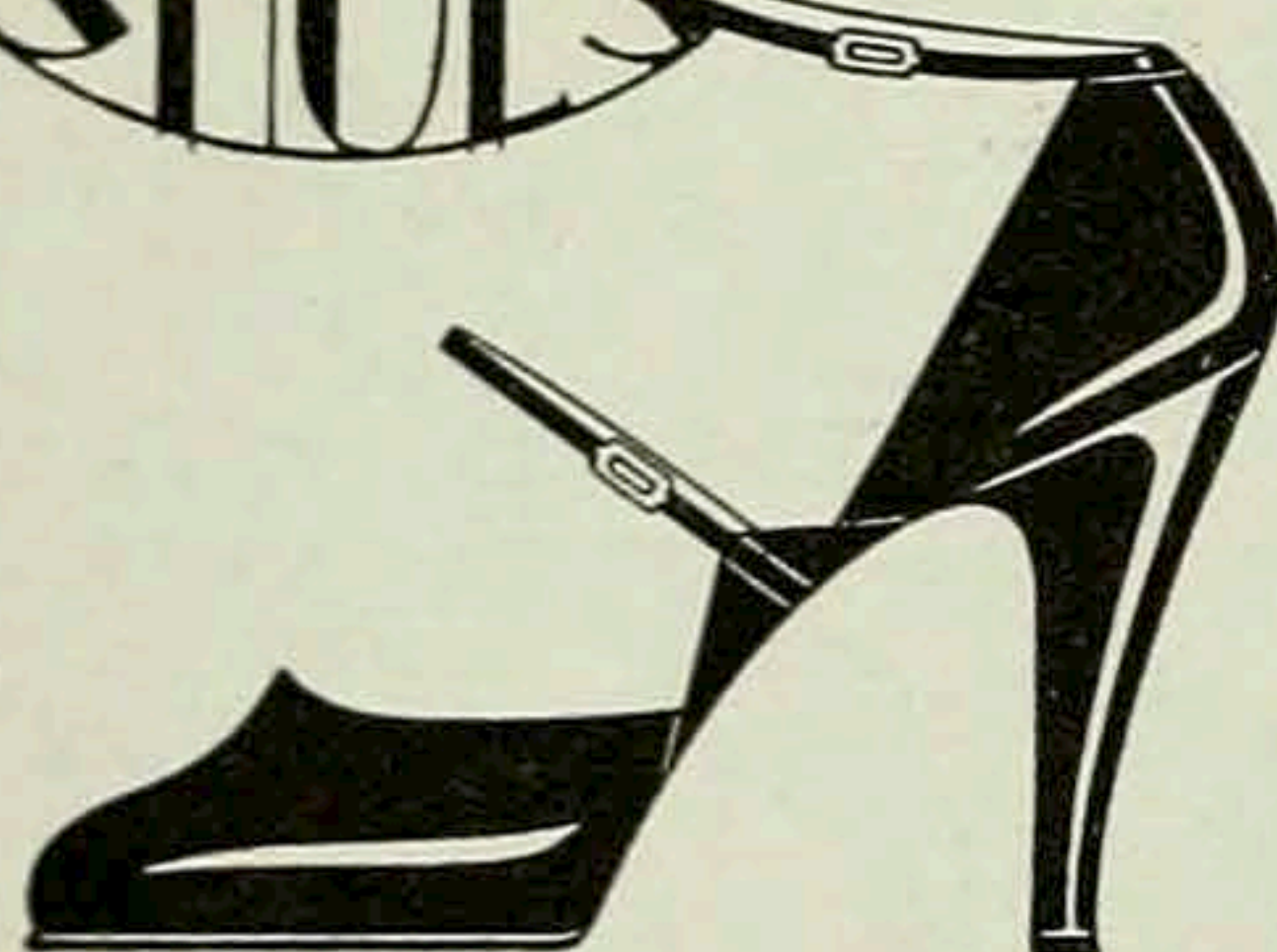
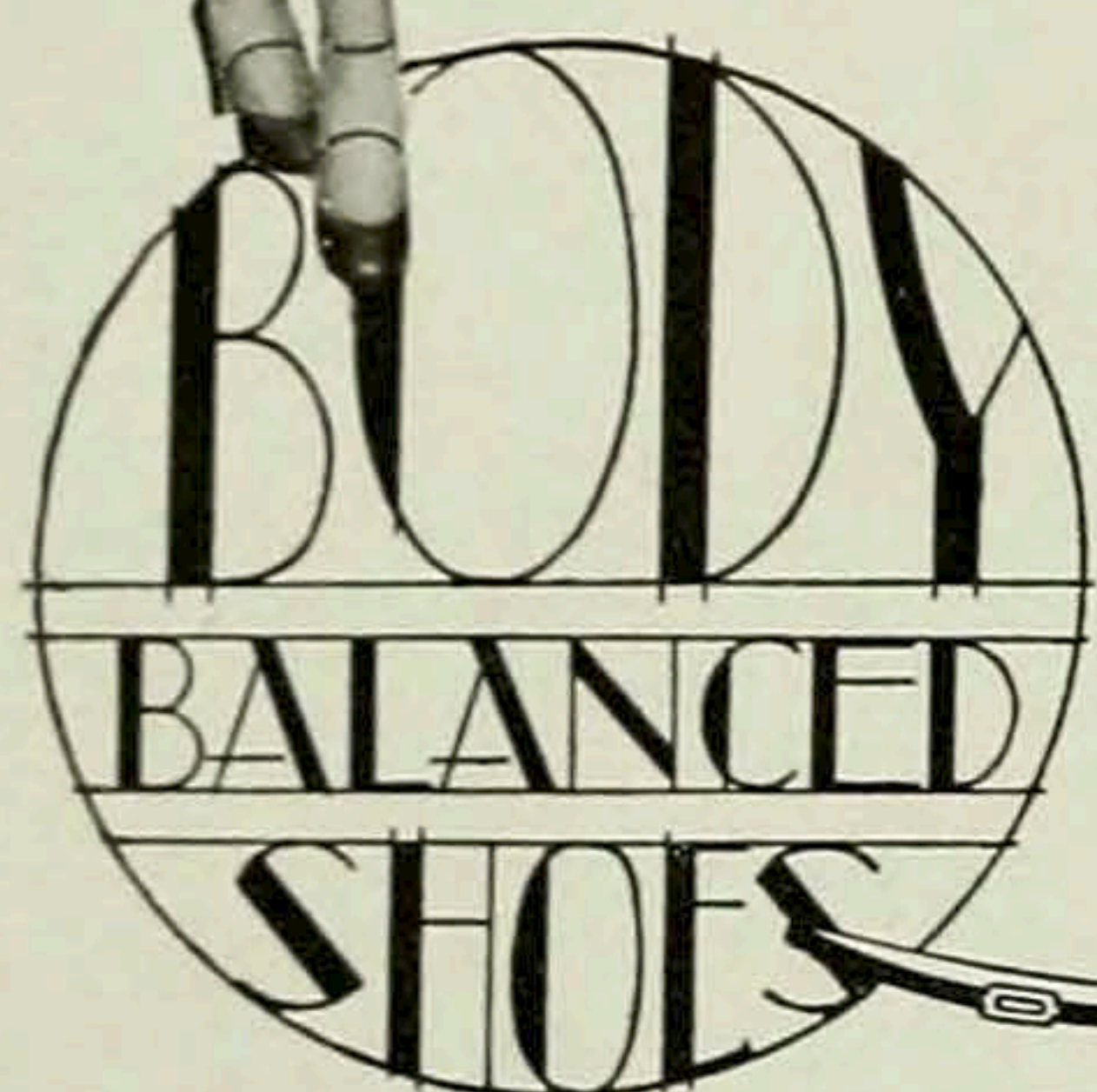
"We did not want to go back. I wanted to stay here and see what I could do. So we went to see an attorney about my contract and found out that it never had been binding. So we just left them and took an apartment and stayed here."

Subsequently, having changed her name to Anita Page, she made the rounds of the [CONTINUED ON PAGE 100]





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[ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41 ]

studios. Mal St. Clair saw the test that Paramount made of her and announced that she was just the type he wanted for a picture he was to direct for M.-G.-M. So he took her out there for a test. Sam Wood, who was to direct "He Learned About Women," saw that one and decided that he wanted her for his picture.

So, since he was to start shooting before St. Clair did, he got her.

So Anita Page has signed a contract with M.-G.-M.

She is beautiful, is Anita Page and she has

something of the sparkle that belongs to Clara Bow. An animated face with tiny dimples which flash disconcertingly to the surface when she smiles—which is often, now-a-days.

"I'm awfully glad I came—now," she says, "although I am still sorry I came as I did. I should have come later anyhow and coming in this way gave me a bad start. But the people who know me know how it was—and I am not well enough known to the general public for it to hurt me with them, I guess. They will have forgotten all about it before my first picture is released."



P&A

**Peter Pan** asks the way to Kensington Gardens. Betty Bronson, less than five feet tall, asks directions from a Commissionaire, over six feet tall. Betty went to visit the famous Gardens in London, where a statue of Peter himself delights thousands of children