

This was the scene in London's Leicester Square on the evening chosen for the greatest event in the cinema year. The film selected for the royal performance was The Battle of the River Plate. ~~The camera flashed;~~ and one of the earliest arrivals was Marilyn Monroe, ~~now making her first picture in a British studio. Her escort~~ ^{AND} her husband, Arthur Miller. Next the crowd ^{gave} ~~accorded~~ a warm ~~mixer~~ welcome to the British ~~mixer~~ stars. John Gregson plays the part of Captain Bell in this picture of naval battle. /s

Also in the picture, Peter Finch portrays the captain of the German battleship.

The next exciting arrivals were Anthony Steel and his wife, Anita Ekberg.

And then --- Norman Wisdom.....the little comedian whose smart appearance was not, for once, in danger. Now another of the stars from across the Atlantic --- Joan Crawford --- and from across the English Channel, Brigitte Bardot. 2 Then --- back to British stars to meet Belinda Lee.

And then the excitement in the square reached its highest point as the Queen arrived in a gown of black velvet, accompanied by Princess Margaret. Her Majesty was escorted into the foyer to be received by Mr Reginald Bromhead, President and Chairman of the Cinematograph Trade Benevolent Fund. Presented to Her Majesty were Mr Arthur Rank, Mr Charles Goldsmith and Sir Philip Warton and others whose names behind the cameras of the film industry mean no less than the names of stars. /

Other members of the royal party for this naval premiere were Admiral of the Fleet Earl Mountbatten, the First Sea Lord, and Countess Mountbatten.....who then followed the Queen up the grand staircase to the reception room. /

Upstairs, those presented included Mrs Douglas-Morris, daughter of Mr Reginald Bromhead; and Colonel Bromhead, Trustee of the Cinematograph Trade Benevolent Fund. Then Mr Frank Hill, the Fund's Treasurer, ~~was presented to the Queen~~ while Princess Margaret was engaged in conversation with Mrs Rank. Mr Cecil Bernstein was another name famous throughout the world of the cinema ~~on this occasion of charity~~; ~~Others were Mr Sol Sheckman and Lord Redcliffe.~~ ^{AND NOW} ~~And now - his Majesty - passes for a word with Mr John Davis,~~ President of the British Film Producers' Association and a member of the committee that ~~selected~~ selected the royal film ----- with Mrs Davis. Also Sir Tom O'Brien, of the Association of Theatrical and Kine Employees; and here the Queen discusses the making of the film with its co-writer, co-producer and co-director, Mr Michael Powell. The other member of this brilliant team is here --- Mr Emeric Pressburger. Now Lady Harwood, the widow of Commodore Harwood who was in command of the cruisers that sank the Graf Spee. And Captain Bell, commander of the cruiser Exeter. Admiral Woodhouse --- formerly Captain Woodhouse of the Ajax --- and Admiral Perry.

So --- those who were concerned, with the famous naval action ~~of the early days~~ of the Second World War stood side by side with those who played in the film that re-told their story. Among the other film stars who were presented you will recognise Belinda Lee, A.E. Matthews, Marilyn Monroe, Anthony Quayle, Maureen Swanson, Mary Ure, And Norma Wisdom.

Then a bouquet was presented to the Queen by Nicholas John Douglas-Morris, aged six.

And so the royal party went into the auditorium to watch the unfolding of an epic ~~story~~ story of the sea ~~negotiated and faithfully told~~; the record of a glorious action by British ~~cruisers against odds that naval experts would have said were unbelievable.~~ This was the British picture ~~that was~~ chosen for the honour of showing at the Royal Film Performance of 1956; for this good cause in which the film industry extends a helping hand to those ~~who have fallen on times of poverty or sickness.~~