















NICK STILLEN'S CASQUETTE GIRL

CAST

<i>Characters</i>	<i>Original cast</i>	<i>Our cast (those appearing are highlighted)</i>
Marietta	Jeanette MacDonald	Giselle Levisham (English)
Warrington	Nelson Eddy	Trent Lincoln
Governor d'Annard	Frank Morgan	Noel Kidling (English)
Madame d'Annard	Elsa Lanchester	Katie Lamour
Uncle	Douglass Dumbrille	Johnnie Whitworth (English)
Herr Schuman	Joseph Cawthorn	Gunther van Bosse
Julie (the maid in whose place Marietta sails to America)	Cecilia Parker	Inez Vereste
Don Carlos	Walter Kingsford	Gray Cunningham
Frau Schuman	Greta Meyer	Verna-Mae Hart
Rudolpho	Akim Tamiroff	Kansas Brigalow
Abe	Harold Huber	Mike D'Aloro
Zeke	Edward Brophy	Phil Falcone
Priest at the dockside	Peter Potter	Timothy Westinghouse
Ship's captain	Guy Usher	Topher Liner
Pirate leader	Walter Long	Jo Trinoron

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Harold Hubert	Edward Brophy	Guy Usher	Walter Long
			
Akim Tamiroff	Frank Morgan	Greta Meyer	Walter Kingsford
			
Cecilia Parker	Joseph Cawthorn	Douglass Dumbrille	Elsa Lanchester



Jeanette MacDonald/Nelson Eddy

OUR FIRST-RANK CAST MEMBERS

NICK STILLEN	Nick is a high-ranking Hollywood male lead, mostly in comedy. His high point came in a remake of "The Secret Life Of Walter Mitty", when his public saw an
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	incredibly gifted actor.
CHRISTINA NAYLOR	Nick's wife. Christina was a starlet in her own right.
LINUS CONGER	A wonderful character who is financing Nick's films.
Sir BRIAN LEVISHAM CBE	Earl of Watney. A dithering Englishman in the manner of a Hugh Grant character.
Lady IONA LEVISHAM	Dame of the British Commonwealth, former scientist and beautiful wife of Sir Brian.
GENERAL GROVES (Terry)	The General is a clever protagonist who ostensibly works for the Defence Department, but in reality works beside Nick in trying to solve the various puzzles which beset them.
NOEL KIDLING	Another English actor who floats around Hollywood, spouting airy persiflage in the manner of a Norse poet. He is a friend of General Groves and plans to take the Frank Morgan rôle in the Casquette Girl film.

OUR SECOND RANK CAST MEMBERS

MATTHEW CROCKETT-HENSCHAL	An English-born Professor of Psychology working with the CIA.
MRS PATRICIA GLENVILLE	An no-nonsense senior Government official, who works closely with the President of the USA as her Liaison Officer.
AIDEN HUDSON	A slime-ball who assists Mrs Glenville.
GRAY KRAMER	Nick's offsider who is hiding a dreadful secret.
The Honourable GISELLE LEVISHAM	Sir Brian's lovely, talented daughter who will enact the lead soprano in the Casquette Girl film.
TRENT LINCOLN	The actor taking on the lead baritone opposite Giselle.
JOHN LIVERSEDGE	A slimy Hollywood reporter.
JOHNNIE WHITWORTH	Another Englishman: a game-show host with a striking resemblance to Douglass Dumbrille.
PIRATE CAPTAIN	An over-the-top pirate captain who leers hungrily at the girls and keeps his men in good order.
GUY WINSTANLEY	Plays Captain Frieland in Nick's war movie.

~~ with ~~

Ralph Sadler a CIA operative

Roy Gilderstein Another man shoring-up Nick's films.

Jen Ong director of casting

Morgana the secretary

Dan Turbot Nick and Gray's fishing buddy

Jeb Wrestwraithe anchor on "Hollywood Unmasked"

Gracie Brione who was supposed to be Giselle's assistant

Carmel female assistant to Nick

Christian who assists Nick on the war film

Sergeant Cameron and Karl Somme in the war film

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Midshipman Quincy, Rosa and the other girls, sailors and pirates

Roy Gilderstein's major-domo

AND

Studio Orchestra Duncan Conroy-Pierce conductor



NICK STILLEN'S CASQUETTE GIRL

FULL SYNOPSIS

PROLOGUE A Darkened Theatrette

Nick's assistant is Gray Kramer. Gray is screening for Nick a black-and-white version of the 1935 film: "Naughty Marietta". Nick's jovial comments to Gray indicate that he is unfamiliar with this film; and that he does not especially enjoy its content (even in spite of a promised pirate scene).

The theme of snakes and ladders (that is chutes and ladders) will recur throughout the film: it is mentioned here.

Nick leaves the theatrette after demanding that Gray find for him a colourized version of this film.

PROLOGUE A Dimly-lit Underground Bunker At CIA Headquarters

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CIA operative Ralph Sadler is urgently called to the White House.

PROLOGUE A Secure Room In The Whitehouse

A top-level briefing has been organized in a CIA bunker. Attending this briefing are: General Groves, Mrs Patricia Glenville (aide to the President) and her assistant (Aiden Hudson) along with others.

The CIA has gathered intelligence that a super-smart bomb of unknown kind is being hawked about. The USA must get hold of the bomb. The CIA ploy is to lure the bomb-maker into the open by leaning on his (or her) obvious sphere of the entertainment industry. This data has been gathered via psychological profiling. General Groves comes across as a sensible man who immediately brands this venture as hogwash.

Many influential and cashed-up Hollywood impresarios have signed-on to support the project which centres on a lavish remake (as true to the original as conceivable) of the Jeanette MacDonald/Nelson Eddy hit musical: "Naughty Marietta".

Nick Stillen has been chosen to direct the remake of the 1935 musical film but will need persuasion to undertake such a financially risky project.

Christina Naylor's Kitchen

Christina and her helper Gloria are very busy making all sorts of treats for an upcoming dinner party. Nick sits on a stool, in the ladies' way, randomly trying-out various foodstuffs.

Christina reveals that she herself is a descendant of a casquette girl. Christina explains to Nick how the casquette girls are connected to "Naughty Marietta".

Nick is sickened by the idea of people singing to each other.

The Stillens Hold A Lavish Evening Barbeque

A large Hollywood crowd provides a frenzy of activity and merriment.

We hear Nick promise someone that he will get hold of a choice bottle of cognac. We see Nick thread his way through the bevy of lovelies, with random comments as he travels.

Nick and Aiden discuss Nick's up-coming movies. Nick thinks that they will be glorifying his "Leviticus Uplifted". Nick waxes lyrical until brought back to earth by Aiden. The latter wants to push Nick towards the remake of the 1935 romantic musical. Nick argues strongly against the plan. He storms off.

Groves and Noel discuss the superbomb in a steam bath. It seems inane to expect the genius who invented the elusive superbomb to turn up as an actor in the musical movie.

Christina argues that Nick's Nazi oil bunker explosion was a "boy" thing and that he would be better off directing the musical. Nick vehemently argues in favour of his war movie.

The Casting Of The Singing Picture

Throughout the casting exercise, every attempt is made to find "look-alikes" to complement the 1935 film.

In discussing the various candidates for the roles, Linus is confused by some of the technical terms used. Nick is simply bored and disruptive. He notes that many of the prospective actors and actresses come from Britain. The addition of Noel Kidling upsets Nick: Nick can never understand what Kidling is saying.

The group seem to be prepared for Trent's "prima donna" behaviour.

Outside the meeting, Gray hands Nick the colourized DVD. At the same time, Gray insists that Nick must run with this project and not simply dump it in his (that is Gray's) lap. Gray suggests that the two men go out with Dan Turbot for some fishing.

Gray, Nick and Dan Turbot Go Big Game Fishing

Media pest John Liversedge is an unwelcome visitor in Dan Turbot's boatshed. He interviews Nick (and then later twists Nick's meaning on the "broadcast").

The Brits Arrive

Now follows some humour as we introduce the British contingent.

American Trent and British Giselle actually fall in love on first sight.

General Groves and "Leviticus Uplifted"

General Groves (an armed forces adviser) sees Nick directing the war epic and (like everyone else) believes that Nick should star in the movie as he is a natural for the part of Eugene.

The Queen of Stage Mothers

Lady Iona proves to be the ne plus ultra of stage mothers as she cossets Giselle.

The "Leviticus" courtroom scene provides a shock disclosure.

A Very Swell Hollywood Dinner Party Hosted By Roy Gilderstein

Nick (unlike everyone else) struggles to understand Noel when he speaks. It is Noel's habit to speak in the manner of an Icelandic saga. Noel is excited at the prospect of Nick's pirate scenes.

Roy Gilderstein possesses a superb mansion in the Hollywood hills. He is not only staging this marvellous dinner party but will later throw a huge old-fashioned Hollywood party.

Linus and Brian kid around with the concept of British noblemen and their titles.

Nick wanders off into a snakes-and-ladders trance. When he comes around the other guests are concerned for him. However, Nick has been summoned by the President's aide (Mrs Patricia Glenville). With a nod to Maxwell Smart's "cone of silence", Nick is passed a Silenzio unit (such that the conversation will not be overheard). Then we have a sight gag: with the Silenzio unit strapped to his face, how will Nick eat and drink?

In brief, Mrs Glenville is fed up with Nick not being 100% behind the "Naughty Marietta" project.

Nick is sworn to secrecy. A whizz-kid electronics genius with a penchant for war games has invented a piece of equipment which is so revolutionary that it will haul us into a new era of warfare. The whizz kid's weakness is a penchant for musical comedy, so he may already be wafting around on Nick's movie set.

Aiden marches into the room, fitting himself with a Silenzio unit.

The Grim Rendezvous With Graham Kramer's Body

Nick is driven to the crime scene with Mrs Glenville and Aiden. From this scene we learn that Gray was a secret agent (ex Russian). He was murdered by a hitman.

The scene is at the disused building site.

Nick must overcome his emotions. He is accompanied by Mrs Glenville and Aiden. They appear to be cold, almost callous. Mrs Glenville admits that she only cares about the President; and that the Prez only cares about finding the deadly weapon. The problem is that the bomb-maker is even now on Nick's movie set. Nick warns Aiden never to set foot on the movie set.

We Did Not Really Want To Know That Gray Was Like This

The Feds take Nick to see Gray Kramer's digs where Gray had a veritable arsenal of weapons.

Nick has a meltdown caused by his shock. Nick realizes that he never really knew his buddy. He starts reciting the last words of Dutch Schultz. With that, Nick is sent home to convalesce.

At home (still shocked) Nick remembers Gray's DVD (the colourized version of "Naughty Marietta".)

Nick Faces The Inevitable And Watches The 1935 Movie

Nick and Christina cover the facts that Nick has not bothered to watch the 1935 movie (in black and white) yet, and now it turns out that Gray's colourized DVD is missing.

Nick Loses It Over The Pirate Scene

As the "Leviticus" movie chugs along, Nick has a seizure when the "Naughty Marietta" pirate scene goes awry.

Nick Directs The Balcony Scene ("The Italian Street Song")

Nick is filming the "Zing Zing" balcony scene whereby the lovely Marietta entrances Captain Dick with her brilliant coloratura. In this we basically follow the original 1935 version. The strolling Italian players (puppeteers) are paid by Dick to strum his favourite tune. Dick sings, then (goaded by Dick) Marietta joins in. She is stunning. However, Captain Dick begins to comprehend: this lady is in all probability a princess of the blood. Trent is so overwhelmed that he grabs Giselle to pash-on with her. He is not acting. Then he must apologize to everyone, red-faced and overcome.

We also learn (Nick interviews the lovers separately) that Giselle is a prima donna and Trent has priors as a difficult actor to work with.

General Groves Sets Up An Incident Room

General Groves has taken command of Nick's large pinup board, and has pinned to it a variety of papers, maps, photographs, and so on.

Nick has almost wrapped-up the filming of Leviticus. So now Nick can devote himself to a run-through of all the bombing suspects with General Groves. Noel comes to join the discussions. He indicates that the Gray DVD contained a cryptic end message. The last words of Dutch Schultz come into play again. Noel and General Groves slip notes to each other as Nick becomes more and more frustrated. Noel reveals that he and Christina had worked out the solution, based on Gray's cryptic indications.

Now the villain can be revealed.

Nick is supposed to be getting ready for the big Hollywood brawl. Instead, he is hallucinating over an illusory game of snakes and ladders.

The Hollywood Brawl

The Hollywood brawl contains a shootout and the necessary disclosure.

The Governor's mansion is in reality the home of Roy Gilderstein. The mansion is fitted out as an homage to the 1935 film. Likewise the guests were costumes reminiscent of same.

General Groves buttonholes Lady Iona, offering her 47 million US dollars for her invention. Threats regarding the Fintner Glade air crash are also made.

Lady Iona (promised an interview with the US president) idly queries Groves as to who "dobbed her in". Groves names Nick. It was Nick's work on the "Leviticus" movie which alerted Nick to the outrageous possibility. The bomb was called the "Marietta" and was completely undetectable. The Fintner Glade bombing was simply a successful trial run.

Spotting Lady Iona being escorted from the festivities by CIA operatives, Matthew opens fire. There is real confusion as more and more people whip out pistols and begin shooting. Trent is winged. It is essential to get the young actor to hospital.

The young lovers are whizzed off in an ambulance. They share earphones such that they can listen to their singing.

Nick Watches The 1935 Film (Gray's Colourized Version)

This is a recap of the opening scene. Nick is in an auditorium watching the 1935 movie "Naughty Marietta" in colour. He is watching the opening where Marietta visits her musical friends.

Nick ponders the notion that this remake will be wholesome.

For the first time, Nick shows a preference for the romcom over the Leviticus film. He is entranced by Woody Van Dyke's puppy scene.

~ FINIS ~