

Australian Works With James Garner In '36 Hours'

# Rod Taylor Plays A Villain Now

By BOB FREUND  
(Amusement Editor)

An actor noted for "nice guy" roles is playing a villain—and liking it.

"I also find myself working against it," said Rod Taylor. Taylor, one of the solidest new properties in filmdom, lunched with me in the MGM commissary recently. He was a late, and apologetic, a factor which promoted even more admiration on my part.

**BUSY IN '36 HOURS'**

The Australian actor had just had a rough morning working with James Garner on a tense scene in the suspense drama, "36 Hours." The difficulties pushed lunch out of everyone's mind.

Now that Rod Taylor is an established star, I asked him which picture he felt did it for him.

"That's easy," he smiled. "The VIP's." With its cast it was bound to be bouffice, and I had a great role.

**AUSTRALIA PLEASED**

"I went back to Australia for personal appearances on 'The VIP's', and the reaction was tremendous. My people felt at last a real, modern Australian was portrayed on the screen, rather than some Anzac or Bushman."

Taylor has definite ideas on what the movies need these days.

"New personalities are necessary. That is, actors who have that stuff I can only describe as 'star quality.'"

**GOOD ACTORS**

I mentioned I felt both he and Garner had just that combination. Both are handsome, both are good actors, and each has indefinable quality—the ability to project a screen personality. Both actors also have a built-in sense of humor which comes across with apparent ease.

Taylor is a rugged guy. Not too tall, but husky, with light brown hair and blue eyes, his obvious good health and athletic prowess give him an air of spontaneity. He's an eager conversationalist with definite ideas.



**ROD TAYLOR SWITCHES 'GOOD GUY' ROLE**  
... then comes John Ford's 'Young Cassidy'

"Why aren't you taking any notes," he asked.

"Never do," I replied. "I just like to sit and talk. The memory's pretty good, and I feel I get to know a subject better this way."

**IT'S A RELIEF**

"Well, it's a relief. Some of these babes come out here with a list of questions and scratch away like mad. They're so busy writing, they seldom even look at you."

to like you on the screen, but when she turns it on, she's a I think the men in the audience worker." also accept me and that's important."

**PLUM ROLE NEXT**

After winding up "36 Hours," Taylor gets the plum role of his career thus far. He's set to play Sean O'Casey in John Ford's "Young Cassidy," to be filmed in Ireland. He's very happy his co-star will be the lady who garnered a lot of notice in "The VIP's"—Maggie Smith.

"Sean Connery was set for the role of O'Casey, but luckily he bowed out. It's going to be a challenge, though. The supporting cast reads like a who's who of the British stage—Ralph Richardson, Dame Edith Evans, Michael Redgrave and Joyce Redmond."

**ENJOYS WORK**

Taylor is enjoying working with Garner. The two were friends, and the mutual admiration is paying off in their scenes together.

About his previous leading lady, Elizabeth Taylor: "She's a real pro. You often sit around waiting for her to show up, but

when she turns it on, she's a worker."

Jane Fonda: "I had heard she was a real kook, and I don't dig that type. However, as 'Sunday in New York' progressed, I found she wasn't that way at all, and she's a hell of an actress—just great."

**WAITS BORING**

Tippi Hedren: "Well, you've got the situation of a brand new personality being molded by Hitchcock. Naturally, during 'The Birds' he was concerned with her, and the waits became boring."

I told Taylor I had received some blue-nose comments about my good review of "Sunday in New York."

"Yes, I'd heard of this around the country. I can't understand it when things like 'Irma la Douce' and 'Tom Jones'—both loaded with sex—get by. I think 'Sunday' was a fine comedy and true to life."

It looks like this actor, who shares a famous name with Elizabeth and Robert, is here to stay. He and his wife, Mary

die, Rod has a few comments. Hilem live in a rambling colonial house in Beverly Hills, and a new little Taylor will arrive around Labor Day.