

SYDNEY ACTOR ROD TAYLOR MEETS THE SWEDISH "ICEBERG" AND SAYS

From our own Correspondent
ROME, Saturday.—Sydney-born actor, Rod Taylor, said this week he found Swedish actress Anita ("Iceberg") Ekberg a "sweet and wonderful girl."

He admitted they were having a romantic friendship but insisted they had no "personal plans" for the future.

"One is a little scared about talking of permanence in these things," he said.

For several weeks Taylor and Miss Ekberg have been inseparable companions, settling tongues wagging and flashbulbs popping in

Capri, Naples and Rome. At present they are both in Rome, where Taylor is appearing in the name part of the Italian film, "Sir Francis Drake, King of the Seven Seas." Miss Ekberg drops in frequently at the studio to see him at work.

Cold? not 'Sweet Anita'

On the subject of her relationship with Taylor, Miss Ekberg is brief.

"We met. We liked each other. We agreed we wanted to be friends. That is all I have to say," she said.

The pair first met at a party given by actor

Tony Curtis and his wife, Janet Leigh, at Romanoff's, the famous Hollywood restaurant.

They did not meet again until last month when Taylor was making exterior shots for "Sir Francis Drake" at the picturesque little south Italy seaside town of Marina Di Maratea.

During time off, but still made up for his part, he was at a local cafe.

Miss Ekberg arrived in a yacht owned by friends.

She landed, entered the cafe, but did not recognize the Elizabethan gentleman with square head and doublet hose.

Taylor came over, bowed, and said, "Remember me?"

Miss Ekberg said: "After we had talked we decided we wanted to see each other again, and we are seeing each other again—as friends."

In his dressing-room, Rod Taylor said: "From the moment she sailed over the horizon in that big yacht, Anita has certainly made my trip to Italy.

• "Courage, ability"

"Apart from her warm friendship, I admire her for her courage and ability in looking after her own welfare.

"She is an impressive actress and it is a tremendous pity Hollywood could not see her as anything but a sort of sex symbol.

"In ordinary life she is spontaneous and sweet.

"I also like her because behind her aggressive femininity is an extremely candid, nice girl."

After their reunion in Maratea, the yacht with Miss Ekberg aboard was moored near the galleon in which Taylor was making scenes and he was a regular visitor to her and her friends.

They met again in nearby Capri, and after Miss Ekberg had gone on to Rome, Taylor flew there to see her.



Anita Ekberg... "We liked each other."



Rod Taylor... "I admire her courage."

• Expected fireworks

They have been seen frequently in nightspots, especially in the popular Via Veneto area.

Miss Ekberg lives with one of her six brothers in a villa on the outskirts of Rome.

One night Taylor went to a cafe without Miss Ekberg and sat at a table next to one occupied by her former husband, British actor Anthony Steel.

People knowing Steel's hot temper, waited expectantly for fireworks.

But Steel and Taylor surprised everybody by spending an extremely amiable evening together.

Taylor is working hard and taking his success lightly.

He left Australia in 1954 and has his home in California.