

## THE HERO SURVIVES

Rod Taylor thinks the public is ready once more for an old-fashioned, red-blooded type movie with an old-fashioned, red-blooded type hero.

He also believes they're getting both in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's new version of the adventure classic "Trader Horn," which stars Taylor in the title role with Anne Heywood and Jean Sorel as his safari companions.

"The anti-hero image was stretched as far as it could go," Taylor contends. "I think people now want to see a good guy win out over bad guys through intelligence, courage and strength—the traditional makeup of hero types.

"Deep down in their hearts I think most people still believe that right makes might. That faith in the triumph of good over evil may have received new impetus this year by the return of American prisoners of war from Vietnam. They did a lot to restore the old hero image."

In "Trader Horn" Rod Taylor plays the great white hunter whose knowledge of the jungle leads a small safari safely through almost every conceivable hazard. They are trapped between English and German soldiers—and want no part of either; they are subjected to the treachery of other whites, and are innocently involved in a war between two native tribes.

They must slosh through swampland, thirst through desert, hack their way through dense undergrowth and endure the dangers of stampeding elephants, rampaging rhinos, ferocious lions and poisonous snakes.

"In a nutshell it's the story of man through the ages," Taylor says, "his struggle for survival against nature and the elements."

"Trader Horn," produced by Lewis J. Rachmil and directed by Reza S. Badiyi, represents a modernized version of a film classic which MGM released in 1930 as its first "talking picture." Harry Carey portrayed the "Trader Horn" role, with Edwina Booth and Duncan Renaldo as his white companions on the safari.

Miss Booth, married and retired from show business, and Renaldo, also retired, still make their homes in southern California. Carey died several years ago. Miss Booth's career came to a standstill after "Trader Horn," but Renaldo had a big resurgence as the Cisco Kid on television in the early 50's.

## DON'T SPARE ROD

The one thing Rod Taylor doesn't believe in is sparing the Rod. Rod gives completely of himself when working in the motion picture business.

Taylor currently stars in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Trader Horn," portraying the title role in the new version of the classic adventure story. He recently completed "The Heroes" in Egypt with Rod Steiger, and that came right on the heels of "The Train Robbers" with John Wayne.

Immediately upon finishing "Trader Horn," Rod put together two properties which he plans to film independently, maybe back to back, if he can work them into his schedule which includes a number of prior commitments and options.

"I guess it's my nature to go all-out in acting," Rod says, "but I wouldn't want it any other way. Acting is one of the most vital areas in my life, and I'd be cheating myself if I short-changed it in any way or form."

Because of his dedication, Rod finds his life divided between two homes. One is the spacious, comfortable home he maintains in Beverly Hills and the other is a 40-foot long, fully self-contained motor home which he transports around the world, from location to location.

Both homes are furnished with "mannish" furniture which Rod personally selected according to his own likes and comfort.

"That's one big advantage of being single," the handsome Australia-born actor says with a wink. "There are also some other advantages almost too numerous to mention!"

Taylor, who once aspired to being an artist, has some of his own paintings hanging on the walls of both homes, along with a variety of works he collected during travels around the world.

Rod's tastes also extend to good living—good food, good wine and good friends who are good story tellers. This good life he considers the reward for his years of hard work and dedication.

Rod's ability to keep up his rigorous working schedule results from a regimen he has adapted for keeping himself physically trim. He jogs, he works out, and he relaxes. He also is becoming more and more interested in the outdoor sports, like fishing and hunting which bring him into fresh wilderness country.

Like the dedicated person he is, Rod keeps a chart of his activities—number of miles jogged, for example—as a sort of blueprint for life. This way, he explains, he can check to determine immediately if he has been easing up in some important activity.

Rod doesn't do all his stunts in movies like "Trader Horn," but it's not because he isn't capable. Producers insist that he keep out of the more dangerous scenes for fear of an accidental injury which could tie up production.

Nevertheless, he insisted on riding a wild zebra for a scene in "Trader Horn," and Director Reza S. Badiyi finally allowed it. Not only did Taylor ride it successfully, but after several takes the zebra was tame!

