



The young, talented US star has already appeared in nineteen movies. Old hands in the movie business place a bet on his intelligence and determination, young ladies on his winning smile.

Photo: 20th-Fox

Jeff Hunter told *FILM-REVUE's* Hollywood correspondent the secret formula of his career:

Preparedness

and

Opportunity

Jeffrey Hunter's first role in the Children's Theater in Milwaukee was the inauspicious Mister Grundeis, who is pursued by a horde of boys to be handed over to the authorities in Erich Kästner's dramatized 'Emil and the Detectives'. In those years he still went by the name of Henry H. McKinnies Jr. At the tender age of four he moved with his parents – his father was a well-known engineer – from his birthplace New Orleans to the 'most German' of towns in the United States, Milwaukee. At that time his friends used to call him 'Hank'. And they still do, although now people address Mr. Hunter as 'Jeff'.

After military service in the Navy he studied at Northwestern University in California. His special area of interest was broadcasting. In addition, he acted as a radio announcer and lent his voice to radio plays until 1950. He had been appearing on the college stage already. In Arthur Miller's 'All My Sons' he didn't remain unnoticed. Already one month later he had an invitation from Paramount for rehearsals. But before he even had an inch of a movie recorded there, the attention of 20th Century-Fox talent hunter, Malvina Fox, was aimed at him and she snapped the boyish Jeff away from Paramount. Hunter got his first part in 'Fourteen Hours' with Debra Paget as partner, and that's how his career started without delay. One would think that the compass of his life pointed unswervingly towards success, since Jeff - blue-eyed, dark-haired and 6' - meanwhile has been playing significant roles in nineteen movies. Especially noteworthy are: 'The Frogmen', 'Red Skies of Montana', 'Belles on their Toes', 'Dreamboat' (*Casanova wider Willen, Traumschiff*), 'Lure of the Wilderness', 'Three Young Texans', 'Princess of the Nile', 'White Feather', in which as the son of an Indian Cheyenne chief he had to cover his blue eyes with brown contacts. And further: 'Dreamboat', 'Seven Cities of Gold', 'A Kiss Before Dying', and the latest, 'The True Story of Jesse James'.

"I have been lucky", comments Jeff, as many an actor does who has been swiftly climbing up on the success ladder. "But luck to me is when inner preparedness and opportunity meet." So 'Hank' doesn't take the matter too lightly! He unconditionally considers naturalness, honesty and sincerity, at work as well as in daily life, essential prerequisites for success. "When engaging in a performing job, you have to put your heart and soul in it." Hearing 'Hank' talking with passionate fervor about his profession as an actor, one wouldn't think that he initially intended to stay in broadcasting and that he worked with such intensity in the "art and technology of broadcasting", that he started to write a doctoral thesis on the subject. However, his first movie engagement prevented him from finishing his dissertation. But he absolutely wants to catch up on it eventually.

Jeff doesn't like to talk about his private life, where clouds cast dark shadows over sheer bliss. During test shots at Paramount in 1950 he met the charming Barbara Rush and fell in love with her. They married in December of the same year. Two years later Barbara gave him a son. However, disagreements emerged eventually, and in 1954 Barbara and Jeff divorced.

As he used to in early boyhood, Jeff still is active in all sorts of sports: football, golf, tennis, ice-skating, skiing (he would have loved becoming a skiing instructor), swimming and horse-back riding. His way of relaxing is reading, drawing or playing the piano. As a born 'Southerner', Jeff feels very much at home in California. So much so that until now, good opportunities notwithstanding, he rejected all offers to play on Broadway. Besides, he is now one of the most popular young actors, and if he weren't setting store by the necessary breaks, he could be filming continuously. Last year he made another four movies. Jeff Hunter – probably we will see this name with larger letters on screen soon, because not only are his personality and skills a secure currency for the future, but also three times Oscar-winning actor, Walter Brennan, attested that he has all that is necessary for a successful career: intelligence, determination, humor and constant diligence. It doesn't come as a surprise that in 1957, too, there is a lot of new work waiting for him. *F. Porges*

NOTES ADDED BY TRANSLATOR:

Friedrich Porges was born in 1890 in Vienna, Austria, and died in Hollywood in 1977. He emigrated in 1945 (via Switzerland and the UK) to the US.. He was no stranger in Hollywood.

He was a.o. novel writer, movie director. As correspondent he shared the editorial office of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association with Billy Wilder. He was elected president of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association twice (1948, 1957).

He also was the Hollywood correspondent for FILM REVUE, which then was the most important German magazine in the field of (international) movie coverage. FILM REVUE was discontinued several decades ago. (TL)

1 There might have been for 'Dreamboat' two German movie titles in circulation: "Casanova wider Willen" and "Traumschiff" (TL)