

'Cat People' Lukewarm Film Thriller at Hawaii

BY EDWIN SCHALLERT

"Cat People," per all advance heraldings, is supposed to be some punkins as a thriller. But for my money, whatever that may amount to, it isn't a breeze let alone a shiver.

There are some eerie moments in this much-publicized counter part of—well let's say "Dracula"—and it has an unusual psychological undercurrent, but the actual devastation that you anticipate never comes off.

The film therefore reminds of a mild rather foreign-tinged affair and is compensating chiefly in bringing the ever-provocative Simone Simon back to the screen. She portrays the woman who is under the influence of a mid-European spell, which tends to make feline types even more feline and otherwise raises hob with their personalities.

PLATONIC MARRIAGE

This background is lingeringly disclosed in the picture at the Hawaii Theater. Mlle. Simon as the Serbian Irena Dubrovna, style artist, falls in love with Oilver Reed, played by Kent Smith. But she enters into the marriage state with dread because of the legends surrounding her life. She fears that if she kisses her husband she may be turned into a leopard, or such like, and bring him to his death. So the marriage is entirely platonic.

Notwithstanding the platonism,

jealousy intrudes when the man seems to be too familiar with his office helper and slowly but surely the personality of the cat woman changes under stress. The culmination is a violent murder in which the victim is not her husband or the other woman, but the psychiatrist who attends her and who tries to make love to her.

The picture lacks the quality of being full-fledged in its unfoldment because the plot, after all is said and done, is rather thin. Furthermore the ending is an anti-climax.

Next to Miss Simon the parts most strikingly played are those allotted to excellent Jane Randolph and Tom Conway. Smith's character is thankless in that he seems so stupid about the whole situation. Jack Holt is viewed in a few scenes, and Elizabeth Russell does an interesting incidental portrayal.

Simone Simon has numerous intriguing scenes and sustains surprisingly her bizarre duties. Jacques Tourneur directed from the original story by DeWitt Bodeen. Atmosphere is well maneuvered.

UNIQUE PICTURE

More engrossing event on the bill is the one not so largely exploited, which is titled "The Gorilla Man." The cast in this is headed by John Loder, with Ruth Ford as leading woman and Marian Hall, Richard Fraser Paul Cavanagh, Lumsden Hare and John Abbott all doing notable work in the support, especially Abbott.

This is a unique tale of espionage. The enemy agents use the temporary insanity of a commando trooper to shield their activities. On him is laid the blame for various crimes and it is thus sought to show that he is out of his mind when he is attempting to relay certain vital information.

The plot is cleverly worked out in the story by Anthony Coldey, which was directed by D. Ross Lederman.

A government subject about the training of collegians for war and a cartoon are interesting.

'Sons' Offered at Padua Hills

Known as "sons," combined songs and dances are among the quaint folk offerings of the State of Michoacan demonstrated in "Serranillo Michoacana," romantic comedy, at the Padua Hills Theater.