

# WHY NOT FILM GREYFRIARS?

By Bob Cherry



**Bob Cherry has some staggering suggestions to put forward on this interesting topic, but we think they are a little too staggering for Greyfriars. See what you think.**

**I**r licks me that some enterprising film johnny doesn't come along and make a film at Greyfriars. Believe me, there's unlimited scope for him!

Why, at this old school of ours a go-ahead producer could turn out a film with an atmosphere all of its own. We've got the backgrounds. We've even got the actors.

Our old pal Harry Wharton would make as convincing and good-looking a hero as anyone could want. For comedians we could supply Bunter and Coker, whose appearance alone would draw shrieks of mirth from the most jaded movie audience. While as to a villain, Loder, Carne, Hilton, Skinner and half a dozen others I can name would make diabolical villains without having to bother about make-up!

Of course, there would have to be a story. I favour a simple, unpretentious tale of English school life myself—something, for instance, about a chap who wins a scholarship and finds the school made up of fiends who spend all their time hatching fearsome plots against him, but by his manly example gradually makes them all paragons of virtue like himself. A plain, unvarnished tale of school life that would appeal by its very simplicity—that's my idea of what's wanted!

Just to bring a spectacular touch into it, our producer could introduce a spot of drama here and there—let's say a school rebellion, a flood, an aeroplane crash, an invasion by Chinese pirates and perhaps the burning down of the school as the climax. The sort of thing that doesn't exactly



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happen every day, but might possibly happen every week or so !

Another thing that would stand improving a little is the dialogue. Film patrons might not take kindly to the sort of thing you usually hear at Greyfriars. Imagine this :

Mr. Quelch : " Bless my soul ! Wretched youth ! Depraved juvenile ! How dare you ! "

Cherry : " If you please, sir, and begging your pardon——"

The style would have to be made smart and snappier. Like this, for instance :

Mr. Quelch : " Oh, boy ! I'll tell the world you're gonna get every bit of what's coming to you ! "

Cherry : " Aw, nuts ! Sez you ! Attaboy ! "

Polish up the conversation while endeavouring to preserve the authentic touch. Get the idea ?

Just to give the film that glitter the fans appreciate, there would have to be a spot of singing and dancing

here and there, and this is where a shrewd producer would get results worth showing. Mr. Prout and Gosling in a sort of Nervo and Knox act would certainly bring down the house, while a well-trained beauty chorus of Beaks armed with canes would cause a regular riot in the film world !

Finally—Romance. No film is complete without it ! The hero of the picture would simply have to fall in love with the tuckshop dame, or somebody, if only to provide an excuse for occasional sentimental ballads. Here again Greyfriars could provide something unique. Just picture Wharton and Mrs. Mimble singing a love duet to the strains of Bulstrode's Comb-and-paper Band ! Why, Hollywood would turn green with envy !

I think I've said enough to convince you that we've the material here for turning out something really original in the way of pictures. That being so—WHY NOT FILM GREY-FRIARS ?

Dashed if I don't trot along to Wingate and ask him !

Wingate's just supplied the answer. It seems that the film people have asked the Head about it more than once, and the old bean has gently but firmly declined.

So that's that ! All I can hope now is that the Head will read this, wake up to the possibilities and change his mind.

You never know !

