

# The Story of "JEDDA"



"Jedda", an Australian film produced and directed by Charles Chauvel and released by Columbia, was made principally in the Northern Territory and filmed in Gevacolor.

It tells the story of an aborigine girl raised as a station owner's foster daughter and starts when his wife loses her own baby and is given an orphaned piccaninny to look after for a few days. She becomes attached to the baby and sinks her own personal tragedy in the task of rearing the baby, whom she calls Jedda, into a lovely, young girl.

At 17, Jedda has grown to mature girlhood and is ready for romance with a young, half-caste head stockman, when the arrival of a wild aborigine at the station brings a sense of tragedy.

Jedda had long been aware of the call of her blood, had felt herself being drawn more and more towards her own people and away from the foster parents she loved. She could not understand the reason for this yearning, but its presence disturbed her.

The new arrival, who seems to embody all the glamour and pride of her race, both fascinates and repels Jedda. He kidnaps her and takes her across scores of miles of rugged country to his own land. Jedda's reaction to her new situation brings the film to a climax that makes "Jedda" our finest film yet and one in which the aboriginal people of Australia will have a personal interest.



Sarah McMann (Betty Suttor) has just lost her child. In her most sorrowful hour, an orphaned piccaninny is brought to her. Unable to contain her tears, she sobs her heartbreak out on the table.



But the baby creeps into her heart and Sarah decides to try and give it the upbringing she would have given her own child. She calls the girl Jedda (Margaret Dingle), teaches her to read and write, to say her prayers and even wear shoes—this latter very much under protest!



But Jedda always wants to play with the other piccaninnies and her antics amuse Douglas McMann (George Simpson-Lyttle) and little Joe (Billy Farrer), who has a strong, protective affection for Jedda.