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EXTRA



This seductive wench is Christopher Morley, James Caan's leading "lady" in the production of "Freebie and the Bean."



Hollywood's Newest Beauty Queen Turns out to be a Man

By GEORGE ARMSTRONG

The handsome blond lad might well wonder how he came to end up shot full of holes in a ladies' john with his bra falling off.

A bloody shoot out was not the kind of outcome he'd planned.

But Gason, the blond fellow, was a queer and also a trigger-happy crook, probably not the best combination of personality traits to have when confronted by tough San Francisco plainclothes cops. Especially since he'd just blasted two pistol slugs into one of them.

Worse yet, he had swiped a gangster's numbers racket take for the week. This shortsighted tomfoolery eventually resulted in a chase through Candlestick Park, which ended in a blood-splattered mess in the little girls' room.

Happily, Gason, though dead, survived. So did the cop he'd shot and left for dead. Their strange goings-on were only make believe, part of Warner Bros. new movie, "Freebie and the Bean."

FREEBIE AND Bean are two cops who share a

squad car and have been trying for a year to nab Gason's gambler cohorts.

Freebie Waters, so nicknamed because he'll take anything as long as it's free, is played by James Caan. He was nominated for an Oscar for playing a mobster's son who died in "The Godfather" and for an Emmy for "Brian's Song," in which he played an athlete who died.

Benito "Bean" Vasquez, his partner, is played by Alan Arkin, who played a maniac killer in "Wait Until Dark" and a deaf mute in "The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter."

The leading lady is Christopher Morley, 23, a hair-dresser by trade and a newcomer to the movie business. An honor graduate of a beauty college, he now works for Jon Peters, Barbra Streisand's boyfriend, at his Beverly Hills beauty parlor.

IT SEEMS a studio scout had liked the way Morley looked in a dress. That was his big break.

"It really started unbeknownst to me at a Halloween party at which everyone was to come dressed as his

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The queen, trigger-happy crook ends up doing a deadly dance with cop James Caan in the john.



Gason, played by Christopher Morley, enjoys nothing better than soaking in a hot bubble bath while feasting his eyes on lean, muscular bodies of men in books designed for he-shes.

Hollywood's Newest Sexpot Is a Man!

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favorite actor," he explained.

"I went as Marilyn Monroe."

Four weeks later he received a call from a friend of director Richard Rush, who was then looking for someone to play the drag queen in "Freebie and the Bean."

Morley said, yes, he would be interested. He donned the Marilyn outfit, raced to the studio and barged into the director's office.

"Who in the hell are you?" Rush demanded, or words to that effect. Little did he know that this would-be starlet was in fact a boy, not just another pretty face.

"I'm Christopher Morley and I was told to see you regarding a part in" he tried to say.

Rush cut him short. "You've got it!"

ODDLY, Morley's first challenge as a movie queen was getting his shoulder-length curls cut. His first scene shows Gason, as a fellow, taking a bubble bath while reading a muscleman magazine and talking to Freebie and Bean.

After the bathroom sequence, he returned to the beauty parlor while waiting for his next scheduled scene.

On days off, he went shopping. Morley visited Hollywood's top boutiques, searching for the right

dresses. A studio wardrobe mistress accompanied him, nodding in appreciation each time he modeled another frock.

Then he went to San Francisco for the picture's location shooting. The male and female stunt persons the studio had hired to double for Morley during the rough stuff were unnecessary.

Morley, though a skinny 5-foot-9, 135-pounder, is quite athletic, having once earned a letter in swimming and studied ballet at UCLA. He handled the ladies' room fight with James Caan himself.

IN THE brawl, Gason, a master of savate kick fighting, boots Freebie in the groin a couple of times, thus overpowering him. But the cop quiets Gason with a well-aimed pistol shot or two, but not before tearing loose his falsies and learning his true identity.

The end of Gason marked the end of the first chapter of Morley's budding movie career. He has been offered several acting roles since returning to his comb and hair spray but has turned them all down.

The job offers resembled Gason too much.

"They'd type cast me," Morley said. "And I don't want that. I'm an actor who can do serious performances as my role in 'Freebie and the Bean' proves."

Next time around, he'd like to portray a regular guy.



Gason lets Freebie (James Caan) have it where it ouches!