

'How I Broke Into the Movies

Lucille Faints,

Here is the second in a series of three articles on Lucille Ball's rise to stardom in the entertainment world. In this installment she tells of her quick decision to come to Hollywood, her early roles—and how she met a handsome young man named Desi Arnaz.

By LUCILLE BALL

Working as a model for Hattie Carnegie was not only good experience, but it was lucrative. Then came another break—the one that really started me on my Hollywood career.

I had just finished lunch and was on my way back to the salon. I was late and in a hurry when I ran into Sylvia Hahl, an agent with whom I had signed earlier.

"I think I've got something you'll be interested in," Sylvia said.

I told her that I was late and that if I didn't get back there'd

"Why don't you be real late," she said, "and don't go back at all."

I don't know why I stopped to listen. Something in her manner told me that maybe I'd better listen.

She explained that Sam Goldwyn had rounded up a bevy of bathing beauties, actresses, models and a few other assorted gals of commendable physical proportions to be used in a film he was going to make in Hollywood with Eddie Cantor as the star. However, at the last minute, the mother of one of the girls refused to let her daughter go west and they were in a bind for a replacement.

Don't ask me how it happened, but a few minutes later I was up in Jim Mulvey's office, willing to fill the vacancy.

"You're in," he said abruptly after a cursory glance. "We leave in the morning."

The job was suppose to last for six weeks. It lasted for six months. I've been here ever since. And it was fun working on that Cantor movie. I lived with some

FEB 27 1953

Wins Better Parts, Romance



LUCILLE BALL MET DESI ARNAZ (THIRD FROM LEFT) IN RKO'S "TOO MANY GIRLS." Also starred were Richard Carlson (L) and Eddie Bracken (extreme right)

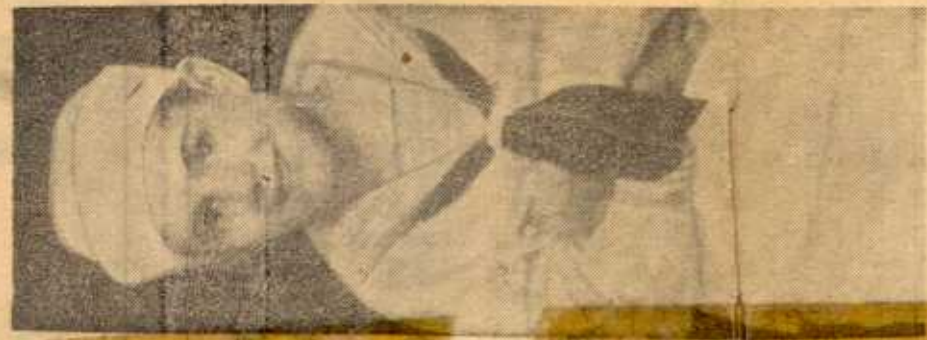
night, if I felt like living it up, put me under contract and I developed my first case of lam-

I'd hire a kid, put the bike in the trunk and ride home later. I felt that I'd gotten over

It's ironical, but in my first film role—and they were pretty small—I was cast as a show

girl. However, I never objected to the parts they handed me in those days. I was making money, but more important, I was saved from a sudden change in my career. I finally did

YOUNG SAILOR



It's Desi Arnaz, age 6

LUCILLE BALL

Continued
should ask the studio for something a cut above a horse opera.

They answered my request by giving me a bigger role in a new picture—and a boost in the salary department. So you see, it doesn't hurt to ask, even if they do call you temperamental. Frankly, I felt a trifle abashed about the whole thing, considering how they reneged. But it worked.

My next role was in "The Girl From Paris." It also brought me an eastern offer to do a play. It was called "Hay Diddle Diddle." It went nowhere, but it satisfied my yen to do a Broadway play. I came back to Holly-