

In the Marijuana Affair:

The man 'Preacher' is Charles Hyatt

by Carol Grace Rose

HE IS the man on radio with the schizophrenic voice — the voice that changes into a variety of forms without a moment's notice, he is quick witted and alert, he is comic, he is classic — he plays Preacher in The Marijuana Affair — he is Charles Hyatt.

The role of Preacher is an unusual one for Charles — and the key word is not role because, as for roles, he has grown accustomed to those but when it comes to Preacher, that is where the big difference comes in. Charles has played the comic, the sober, the everything except sinister, which is exactly what Preacher is.

This character Preacher uses the church as a cover for his evil intention and his sole purpose for attending church is to keenly observe the movements of a particular member whom he plans to murder.

Preacher puts Charles' acting ability to the test in many more ways than one and this ability was demonstrated in a bizarre orgy scene where five girls, as Charles humorously puts it, were "determined to make their presence felt."

Charles, in real life, is very much the comic he usually plays on stage. A few minutes in his company is all one needs to verify this. Words are at his disposal and he moulds them into the most unbelievable forms; very much like an artist who substitutes words for plasticine! He has the ability to twist the most straightforward statement into a caricatured form and the forms invariably come out amusing.

He insists that his personality cannot — be specifically categorised since he reveals different facets of it to different people. He emphasises that individuals need different types

of treatment and their opinions and expectations are based on this received treatment. Consequently, he is expected to conform to various behavioural patterns which, in a sense, he does. None of these personalities is Charles Hyatt proper but there is a little bit of him in them all.

He stressed that he himself is not sure just where along the line the real Charles lurks and that he is searching diligently to find him — and that is typical of Charles (the one I know).

Charles expresses a definite preference for doing radio drama, his reason being that it demands more audience imagination than, say, television, stage, and film. In a stage production as well as in film, each viewer sees exactly what is presented and there is no need to imagine what the players look like, while in a

radio presentation it is the voice that is all important and each listener conjures up a different picture of the speaker.

Radio, therefore, demands more from the audience.

Charles also attributes this preference to the fact that he is basically shy and behind the veil of secrecy — which is the privacy of the radio studio — he can display his versatility without a trace of inhibition.

It is very amusing to watch Charles on stage as he uses his voice to portray people with totally different accents. When he does this on radio, however, he extends beyond the ranks of being an impressionist and the voices are transformed into real people.

Although he loves radio best Charles always manages "to prefer whatever he is doing at the time".

The personality he plays never interferes with the personality of Charles. He always tries to understand

these characters but that is as far as it goes — like Charles is Charles and Preacher is Preacher and never the twain shall meet.

The lead role in the full-length movie, *Love Thy Neighbour* necessitated a complete change in his appearance for the duration of the shooting but managed not to impinge on his personality.

PLAYING Preacher in *Marijuana Affair* and hosting his radio show, all in one day, provides the invaluable experience of adjusting to two roles in very short succession — which he does easily enough.

An Aquarian, he is in the fortunate position of a man whose hobby happens to be his job. And in this day and age it is indeed fortunate to make money from your hobby!

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