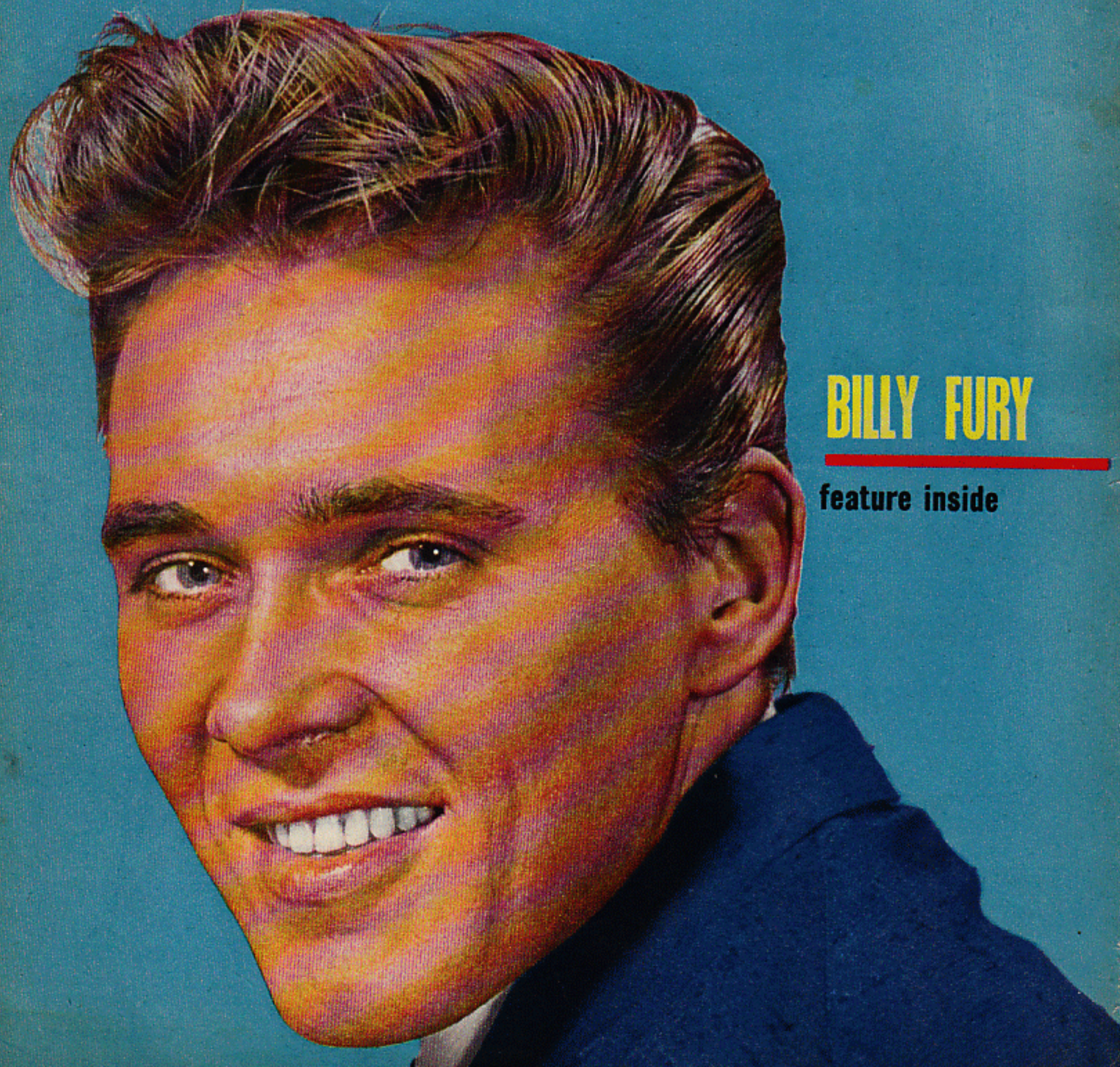


FILMS-POP-TV-DISCS

AUGUST 1963 1/6

PHOTOPLAY

- **Why Dirk is back as Dr. Sparrow**
- **The amazing change in Mylene Demongeot**
- **The other face of James Garner**



BILLY FURY

feature inside

AROUND THE STUDIOS

with Ken Ferguson



Mr. McGoochan Joins the Smugglers

WANTING to get away from the stuffy atmosphere of the film studios, I took a trip down to Rye, Sussex, to watch Patrick McGoochan at work on Walt Disney's latest film, *Dr. Syn*, a colourful, exciting story about smuggling.

I soon wished I had stayed at the studios. The wind, blowing in from the English Channel, gave me a cold reception as I stood on one of the dunes at Camber Sands—the same spot from where, a few years ago, I watched *Dunkirk* being filmed.

Now, instead of grimy soldiers, lined up in their thousands, I saw a small band of smugglers unloading their precious cargo.

Filming was almost impossible that day. The sun was behaving like a temperamental star—one minute appearing, the next sulking behind a heavy black cloud. It was a situation that made director James Neilson scowl with anger.

But when the sun did appear, the actors got to work. Heading the band of smugglers was Patrick McGoochan, dressed in a heavy costume and wearing a mask. He was, after all, playing the Vicar of Dymchurch—and it wouldn't do for a parson to be discovered in such disreputable company. He carries out these missions as a protest against high taxation at the time of King George III, in the 18th century.

As I watched the stampede across the sands, McGoochan was, in fact, at that moment standing by my side. Damn clever chaps these actors!

Needless to say, the man on his horse was a stand-in, who could be replaced if there was an accident. McGoochan couldn't! McGoochan was filming the scene on his own small camera.

Television's "Danger Man" wasn't taking any chances.

McGoochan is a tall, broadly built actor who doesn't particularly like being interviewed. His views on publicity are enough to make a publicity man wish he was promoting ice-cream instead of an actor.

I've met him on several occasions and I've learned if you can survive the first fifteen minutes you'll be all right. But those first fifteen minutes usually turn out tricky, to say the least.

Then, at the end of that time, McGoochan gives you a warm smile and begins to talk more freely.

"What makes me angry is when I see trash on the screen," he said at last. "With so much talent and technical skill available today, you wouldn't expect to see it. You can start with a great script, but somewhere along the line something goes wrong and you end up with garbage."

"I've never seen any of my films, only bits of them, because I don't think I've ever made a really good film," he continued. "The last one I made, *The Three Lives Of Thomasina*, will be the first one I'll go to see. An actor can always feel whether or not he is making a good film. I've always liked Disney's films—good, clean family entertainment. That's why I'm making *Dr. Syn*—I think everyone will enjoy it."

In the background director James Neilson shouted as the sun made another brief appearance.

"Everyone get back!" an assistant yelled. "Would you mind, Mr. McGoochan, the horses are coming through here."

Another stampede across the sands prompted McGoochan to start his own camera rolling. I left him to it as the horses came thundering towards him. I couldn't wait to get back to the studios.

What a Breck!

A lucky girl is Kathleen Breck—she landed a starring part, opposite Alfred Lynch, in her first film, *West 11*.

Associated-British also gave her a film contract. She will make five films with the company.

"I've had to struggle to make ends meet since I first came to England from my home in Southern Rhodesia five years ago," she said. "I even became a postwoman in Earls Court to pay my way. Now everything is rosy."

Kathleen Breck

(Continued overleaf)