

Christine Jorgensen:

Her Sex Story is Real

THERE IS SUCH authentic ladylike dignity about Christine Jorgensen that when a TV interviewer asked an unexpectedly gauche question about her sex operation, the listener was embarrassed for him—and I don't mean Christine.

It is also more than slightly ironical that the big noise being made about "Myra Breckinridge," an out and out fiction story, is because of the subject of sex change from man into woman.

Christine is the real thing. And she sits quietly these days on a set in the Paramount lot watching as director Irving Rapper brings her life story to the screen under the title "Christine," an Edward Small production.

Unlike "Myra," which is being played jointly by Raquel Welch and Rex Reed, "Christine" is being played, man-and-

such excellent taste. For one thing, he is not permitting John Hansen to play my male scenes in a limp-wristed way. And by the way, my maternal grandfather was named John Hansen—did you ever know of such coincidence? I'm convinced John and I have a little ESP going for us in getting this role."

Christine is equally determined that the roles of her mother and father, Florence and George Jorgensen, be handled correctly. "Both my parents, who lived on Long Island, died within the past 18 months. They were so wonderful, so understanding of my problem when it came up, I want them portrayed in this picture just as they were. Their love and understanding was the basis of my having the courage to make the decision I did."

Character actress Ellen Clark, who plays the mother, is wearing Mrs. Jorgensen's real jewelry which was bequeathed to Christine.

As for Christine herself, she is very quick to tell you that she never knew



Christine today.

woman version, by an extraordinarily handsome boy named John Hansen.

"Which is the way it should be played—they're cheating the way they're playing 'Myra,'" said Christine, the original. "Gore Vidal was mixed up. He really didn't know his subject" (referring to the author of "Myra").

At 43, Christine Jorgensen is quite stunning looking. Her eyes are blue, her hair blonde, her figure this day flatteringly revealed in a light blue knit suit which enhanced the color of her eyes.

She admits she takes her post daily on the set to see that her story is brought to films with as much authenticity as possible.

"I don't know what I would do without Irving Rapper. He does everything in

No Cheating In Filmed Life Of Former Soldier Who Became A Woman

happiness nor peace of mind before her sex change into a woman.

"All I have lost is the privilege of having children. But many women are childless and lead satisfied and fulfilled lives," she says.

Has the sensationalism surrounding her case ever distressed her, or left her feeling sorry that she underwent a sex change?

"Not for a moment. I lead a very quiet life and have several close good friends to share it with. It is something in the nature of a fling for me to be in Hollywood where almost everything is slightly on the sensational side. But I am enjoying it because I believe we are making an honest picture about a serious subject.

"If you are asking me about my personal philosophy—I go along with Joe E. Lewis, who said, 'you only live once. And if you do it right, once may be enough.'"

Hearst Headline Service

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