

The Real Christine Approves 'Jorgensen Story'

By PEGGY DOYLE

Christine Jorgensen, who, prior to three operations performed in Copenhagen 18 years ago, was known to her family and friends as 'George Jorgensen Jr., is grateful to young people.

"They appreciate my courage in doing my thing, bringing to medical attention my confused gender in an era before the transsexual was scientifically recognized."

As a consequence of her internationally front-paged surgery, the poised, attractive blonde, now 44 years old, receives quantities of mail of a confidential and frequently tragic nature.

"Since I am not adequately informed, Dr. Harry Benjamin, a leading authority on transsexualism in New York, and a contemporary of Freud, has agreed to answer the difficult letters. He has said that one-half of one percent of the American population is transsexual. I would say that

one-half of one percent of the world population is transsexual."

"Hello, I'm Christine Jorgensen," was her smiling greeting as she was introduced to the frankly curious and considerably larger than usual press group. She was wearing a smart, sleeveless pink-and-gray sheath, pearl earrings, a gold bracelet and a ring on each generously proportioned hand.

It was a natural that mention be made of "Myra Breckinridge," the Sack Cheri's highly controversial film of Gore Vidal's more panned than praised novel on the subject we had been discussing.

"This is a completely different story from mine. I haven't seen the film yet, but I do know that the original script was not the one which was brought to the screen.

"Gore Vidal doesn't know what a transsexual is. He created a sadistic homosex-

ual. He doesn't feel tell a story. He knocks everything and never sees any good. He's an overblown stuffed shirt who does nothing but write trash."

That off her chest, Christine Jorgensen got down to the making of the film based on her autobiography and in which John Hansen is cast in the title role in his screen debut.

"There's one scene that breaks me up. The farewell scene between George (Hansen) and the mother (Ellen Clark plays her troubled mother) when George says, 'Mama, I have to go somewhere, be somebody.'

"I thought a girl should play it, but it had to be a single person. I think John Hansen is just fine. I've seen the film twice. It couldn't have been made five years ago. I think Edward Small, the producer, and Irving

Rapper, the director, have done a fine job."

Miss Jorgensen said she had never married but had been engaged twice. She was engaged to an artist, indicating her engagement ring, "but I just wasn't ready. He still calls me every week and tells me that some day I will break down."

Vermont Symphony Concert at Amherst

AMHERST — The Vermont State Symphony Festival Orchestra under Alan Carter's direction will play a pops concert program at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst Thursday evening, Aug. 6.

Under auspices of the University's Summer Arts Program, the concert will be held outdoors on the mall of the Southwest Residence Area at 8 p.m.



John Hansen, who plays the title role in "The Christine Jorgensen Story," and the real Christine Jorgensen pose with Timmy, the Chimp, who plays a transsexual monkey in the film.

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