

MAN POSED AS FILM ACTRESS

A transvestite in "drag" was said at the Inner London Sessions to have posed as Billie Whitelaw, the film actress, and ordered hire cars in her name.

Charged in the name of Angela Smith (male) theatrical performer, of Burdett Road, Bow, his real name was said to be Dennis Peter Bird, aged 39.

He denied convictions in the name but after evidence by a

fingerprint expert, his identity was established and he was sentenced to two and a half years imprisonment.

In passing sentence, Mr. R. E. Seaton, the Chairman said that Smith appeared to be a persistent fraudsman and would have to be put out of harm's way. He observed that the authorities would have to decide whether to send him to a man's or woman's prison.

Mr. R. Cherrill, prosecuting counsel, said that Smith, who appeared in the dock dressed as a man, had been sent to the Sessions on seven charges of obtaining goods by false pretences and making a false statement for the purpose of getting a driving licence. He had also been sent to the Sessions for sentence on charges of obtaining credit by fraud. Earlier

this year, a film was being made in Latimer Road, North Kensington, which starred Billie Whitelaw, and was about "drag" performers.

A telephone call was made to a car hire firm requesting the use of a car for Billie Whitelaw. When the car arrived, it was met by Smith, who was dressed in female attire and he told the chauffeur he was Billie Whitelaw and requested the use of the car for a few days.

Smith told the driver he was in a film about persons in "Drag" and he used the car for the three following days. He also obtained credit for £5 from the hire company and two meals.

Counsel said that Smith was a transvestite and registered in the name of a female for the purpose of getting employment.

Woman Det.-Inspector Martha

Tilley said that Smith's real name was Dennis Peter Bird and he had a total of 19 convictions and two findings of guilt. In November last he was given a sentence of 12 months imprisonment, suspended for three years for false pretences. In that case he was employed as a barmaid and obtained money illegally from the Ministry of Social Security. He was a single man and since the age of 15 he had been a transvestite.

Mr. Richard Beckett, defending counsel, said that 18 months ago, Smith decided to set out to have a sex change and he was prescribed certain drugs which had a depressing effect upon him and he had made attempts to take his own life.

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