

ACT ONE

Scene 1

# Dora Bailey

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At the end of the Overture, there is a FANFARE. The lights bleed through the "Hollywoodland" scrim, which then flies out as we find ourselves:

Outside Graumann's Chinese Theatre, Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, Calif. There is a large placard reading "PREMIERE TONIGHT -- BIGGEST PICTURE OF 1927. DON LOCKWOOD & LINA LAMONT in "THE ROYAL RASCAL". The POLICE are holding back surging crowds left of center, as star after star make their entrances through the palm trees upcenter and exit stage right into the theatre.

At rise: Downstage right, standing in front of a "period" microphone on a long red carpet is DORA BAILEY, a smartly dressed, matronly woman; a leading film columnist. SHE is giving an on-the-air report of the event. PHOTOGRAPHERS are flashing pictures as each star enters.

DORA

(At microphone, highly excited in an over-ecstatic, gushy voice)

Hello, out there! This is Dora Bailey talking to you in front of Graumann's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood. Every star is here to make Monumental Pictures' premiere of "The Royal Rascal" the outstanding event of 1927.

(A "TOM MIX" type fires off two guns. The CROWDS cheer)

We are breathlessly awaiting the arrival of its two great stars, Lina Lamont and Don Lockwood.

(A shriek goes up from the CROWD as ZELDA ZANDERS enters upcenter with her escort, J. CUMBERLAND SPENDRILL III)

No, no, ladies and gentlemen, that was not them. That was the famous zip girl, the darling of the flapper set, Zelda Zanders...

(A FAN screams out to her "ZELDA!!!")  
and her new red hot pash, J. Cumberland Spendrill the Third.  
(THEY exit right into the theatre)

This is her ninth marriage. I know this time it's really love.  
(OLGA MARA, an exotic star dressed in a spider gown, enters from upcenter with her escort. SHE sweeps downstage and poses. The CROWD reacts with a unison "OOOH")

The noise you have just heard is the arrival of that exotic star, Olga Mara.

(The CROWD boos and hisses the renowned villainess as SHE and her ESCORT exit stage right. MARY MARGARET, a Mary Pickford type enters upcenter with an old, old gentleman -- A Sugar Daddy type)

DORA (continued)

Here's the happy newlyweds, little Mary Margaret, America's darling, and her new husband.

(MARY MARGARET, having acknowledged the applause, summons her husband, who dutifully crosses to her and escorts her into the theatre)

They've been married two months already. And they said it wouldn't last.

(The CROWD roars again as we see a CHARLIE CHAPLIN type enter and exit into the theatre)

The stars keep pouring in, anticipating the arrival of tonight's glorious stars. Here come Mr. R.F. Simpson, the man who gave you all the Lockwood-Lamont pictures, and his lovely wife.

(The CROWD applauds)

They are accompanied by their famous director, Roscoe Dexter

(The CROWD applauds)

... and by Don Lockwood's closest friend and confidante, Cosmo Brown.

(COSMO poses, but the CROWD doesn't respond. HE crosses to the GROUP stage right)

R.F.! Could you come and speak to our listeners?

(R.F. kisses his WIFE "goodbye".

SHE exits. R.F. crosses to microphone)

R.F., do you have anything to say to our listeners about tonight's premiere?

SIMPSON

Dora, I want your listeners to know this is just what they've asked for. Those romantic lovers of the screen at their best.

(HE exits right)

DORA

Thank you, R.F. And now, their director, Roscoe Dexter. Would you like to say a word?

DEXTER

Hi, Dora! Say, Dora, what do you do in between premiers?

DORA

I have three children.

DEXTER

Every time?

(HE exits right)