

Crowds Welcome Fairbanks' First Talking Picture

Thousands of Salt Lake theatre-goers welcomed the opening of Salt Lake's newest picture house Friday night when they packed the new Granada theatre to capacity for three full performances.

And those same thousands greeted Douglas Fairbanks with all the enthusiasm that they would greet a great stage celebrity who had been absent for a long time. Fairbanks would have felt slightly flattered had he been present at the opening of "The Iron Mask," his latest starring sound vehicle which opened as the premiere engagement at the Granada Friday, for the rounds of applause that surged forth from the house completely drowned out the star's talking efforts in introducing the picture.

It might be said that Fairbanks portrays Alexander Dumas' character, d'Artagnan, remarkably well, but it might better be said that Fairbanks is the d'Artagnan of which Dumas wrote and let it go at that.

The old idol of many action films again reigns supreme in the limelight of his recent release and again portrays the filibustering hero as only Fairbanks can portray one.

Not only, however, is the film a good one because of the fact that Fairbanks is starred, but it is further enhanced by gorgeous and elaborate settings and scenes. Apparently nothing has been spared in making this a real screen masterpiece.

Toward the end of the picture the glamour of conquest is injected into the thread of the story and the imagination is called upon to witness d'Artagnan leave his worldly surroundings to again join his friends, the three musketeers.

Fairbanks is heard briefly, introducing the first and second parts of the film, and his voice carries remarkably well to every corner of the theatre.

The acoustic plaster used in the theatre to give the satisfactory presentation of sound films is the result of a process developed by Dr. Will L. Ellerbeck of Salt Lake.

Doug has no doubt usurped the honors with his flamboyant air and glamorous activities, but he is ably assisted by Marguerite de la Motte, as Constance, his sweetheart, and his three friends, the musketeers. Ulrich Haupt as De Rohfort is also well cast.