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# 'The Girl Most Likely, 'Mad, Mirthful Movie Extravaganza, Sets New Entertainment Pace

(Review)

Brightest entertainment to come from Hollywood in many a season is RKO's "The Girl Most Likely," scintillating, rhythm-filled comedy-romance which opened.....  
at the..... Theatre.

One gay surprise after another speeds this picture along through breathtaking love scenes, hilarious romantic incidents, eye-filling song-dance innovations and sparkling character vignettes until the perfectly wonderful conclusion leaves one bewildered at how so much happy diversion could be packed into a single, feature-length movie.

"The Girl Most Likely," of course, is Jane Powell, who warbles and romances throughout the entire show, and it will be a lasting credit to her co-stars Cliff Robertson, Keith Andes, Kaye Ballard and Tommy Noonan.

The story which should capture just about everyone's heart, has

California's exciting Balboa, beach resort, for its locale and deals with resort folks, young folks mostly. Jane, as things develop, finds herself engaged to three swains, any one of whom could conceivably marry her right up to the dizzy finale when true love triumphs.

Meanwhile there's a whole batch of lavish production sequences in this musical dream-world. Six new tunes, in addition to the title song, all hit quality numbers, accompany the magic action with scores and scores of rock 'n' rollers cavorting ashore and in the Pacific.

Staged by the famous Gower Champion, the dances and musical portions of "The Girl Most Likely" are certain to be widely imitated. It is doubtful, however, if Hollywood ever surpasses them.

TV's Kaye Ballard, co-starred as Miss Powell's confidante, adds vocal verve to all this grand scale enjoyment. Una Merkel, as Jane's mom, performs zestfully, and all the other dancing, singing, acting troupers deserve far more than special mention.

Mitchell Leisen's inspired direction is responsible for much of the picture's success while positive credit must go to Producer Stanley Rubin for the film's splendid mounting. Others who merit compliments are scenarist Devery Freeman, composers Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane for the great tunes. William Dozier, in charge of production, and Nelson Riddle, who furnished the arrangements and conducted the orchestra, both win high praise. Technicolor photography by Robert Planck, A.S.C., is keyed beautifully to the gay mood of "The Girl Most Likely" which is a real applause movie from beginning to end.