

Bandy Vilma



ROD LAROQUE

Matinee Idol Made Switch To 'Talkies'

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HOLLYWOOD, Oct. 16 (UPI). —Rod LaRocque, a dark-eyed matinee idol of the 1920s, died yesterday. He was 70.

Mr. LaRocque, whose screen career included both silent and talking pictures, was the idol of millions of female fans.

When he married Vilma Bandy, one of the earliest film sirens, in an old-time Hollywood wedding, police lined the streets for blocks in Beverly Hills to prevent sightseers from mobbing the stars attending the nuptials.

A native of Chicago, Mr. LaRocque appeared on the stage before coming to Hollywood in 1919 to take a leading role in "Gigolo." His other silent films included "The Ten Commandments," "Fighting Eagle" and "Love Pirate."

He was one of the few male stars to make a successful transition to talking films and appeared in "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," "SOS Iceberg," "Til We Meet Again" and "Meet John Doe."

In recent years, Mr. LaRocque and his wife lived in semiretirement in Beverly Hills, but were active in real estate. He commented that they did not miss the glamor of being film stars. "We like being old married folks," he said.

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