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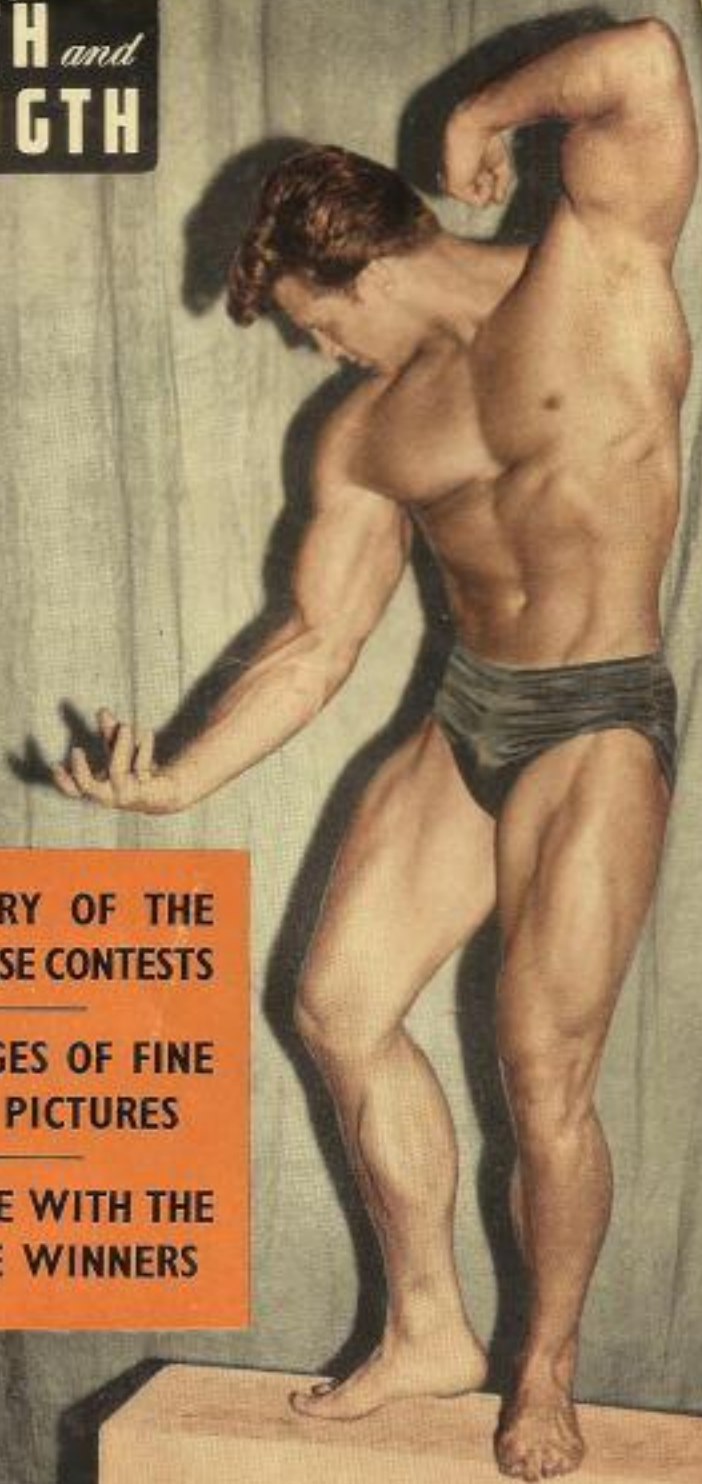
HEALTH *and* STRENGTH




**FULL STORY OF THE
MR UNIVERSE CONTESTS**

**MANY PAGES OF FINE
ACTION PICTURES**

**BACKSTAGE WITH THE
UNIVERSE WINNERS**





Bill Pearl of USA, 1953 amateur Mr. Universe, poses at the finale of the contests.

The big show

by JOHN MENDES

THE assignment of reporting a Mr. Universe show is a plum job. Not for me the nerve-shredding tension of backstage. I did not share in the hundred and one minor panics and flaps that beset the first night of any and every stage production. And remember, for the Mr. Universe show, it is always a 'first night'.

No, sir! They gave me a front row seat in the grand circle, a notebook and a pencil, and told me to see all, hear all, and tell everything.

Promptly at 1.45 p.m. Woolf Phillips lifted his baton and the Skyrockets let forth with the overture. The house lights dimmed

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Mr Universe parade



The Mr Universe competitors fill the vast Palladium stage at the start of the show

and music filled the vast Palladium auditorium. Programmes rustled open while the compere said his introductory piece, and over 2,000 fans leaned forward in their seats as the curtain went up on the Parade of Mr. Universe competitors. The show had begun!

The great parade

On they came, the proud flags of over a dozen nations; the tricolours of France and Belgium, the stars and stripes of the United States, the red dragon of Wales, and many more. The stage filled with mighty physiques from all over the world. As the compere truly said: never had we seen so many muscles in one theatre.

Whilst the auditorium still rang with cheers for the musclemen, the judges came on to be introduced. The previous day they had done their hard and thankless task with the skill and impartiality we have come to expect on these occasions. They were: Professor Edgar Craeye of Belgium, Gregor Arax of France, Joan Hunt of Pensby (1951 Miss Britain), Oscar Heidenstam of England, Emlyn Jenkins of Wales, Norman Guest of England, David Webster of Scotland. The judges' secretary was George Kirkley.

Then it was Don Dorans' turn. This popular British star kicked off the show with some of his incomparable muscle control, and drew the applause he so well deserved.

Next we saw the finalists in the Health & Strength League's Junior Mr. Britain

contest for 1953. A superb collection of well-muscled youngsters whose physiques are the living proof of the vast advances made in bodybuilding in this country over the last few years.

1953 Junior Mr. Britain was Derek Syrad of Dartford, Arthur Batty Bradford was runner-up, and Alan Robinson of Blackburn took third place.

Following the juniors was an item presented by the National Association of Boys' Clubs, and arranged by Sammy Colman, NABC adviser for physical recreation.

With the aid of improvised apparatus made of tubular steel two teams of white-clad small boys climbed and twirled and spun round the stage at considerable risk to life and limb. At least, it seemed that way to me.

The junior Misses

Back to the juniors again, this time to the finalists in the 1953 Junior Miss Britain contests. Lovely girls from all over the country, on stage at the Palladium to compete for the national title. And very nice they looked too.

1953 Junior Miss Britain was Hazel Cleaver of Birmingham, runner-up was Margaret Edwards of Cleethorpes, and Dorothy Peak of Fleetwood took third place.

And then, the first part of the Mr. Universe contests! This was the presentation of competitors in class 2 of the professional contest. One by one they

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★ **↑ and with
their trophies** ★

L to R: *John Isaacs (1), Jim Saunders (3),
Jules Bacon (2), Spencer Churchill (4).*

well-known athletes posed for the fans, and received a tumultuous reception. On the stage were: Jules Bacon of the USA, Spencer Churchill of England, Henri Glorieux of Belgium, James Harris, of England, John Isaacs of South Africa, Jack King of England, Herbert Loveday of England, Dennis Winn of England.

After the modern strongmen came the old-timers! The Four Hercules with big black moustaches—they did a little olde tyme handbalancing and got well and truly snarled-up. I liked their calves—they would have busted Oscar Heidenstam's tape measure at around the 20" mark!

The big boys

The Four Hercules swaggered off the stage to make way for the class 1 professional Mr. Universe competitors. There were only four of these big boys, but they made an impressive sight: Arnold Dyson of England, Reub Martin of England, Roger Novaro of Belgium, and Alex Gregorios of Greece.

Whilst they waited on the stage the class 2

finalists were presented again before the announcement of professional Mr. Universe.

In class 2 the very popular and well-deserved winner was **John Isaacs** of South Africa, with **Jules Bacon** of USA second, and **Jim Saunders** of England third. A magnificent trio!

In class 1 the winner was **Arnold Dyson** of England, with **Reub Martin** as runner-up.

Pro Mr Universe

And 1953 professional Mr. Universe—our own **Arnold Dyson**! Unfortunately this event was marred by a chance in a million accident, in which two names were switched, and John Isaacs was wrongly announced as professional Mr. Universe. But John took his disappointment the way we knew he would, as a one hundred per cent sportsman.

After a short interval the Mr. Universe competitors were back again: this time the class 3 competitors in the amateur contest. It was a wow of a class with Robert Armstrong of England, Egidio Colacicco of England, Vernon Duglan of Wales, John Francis of England, Jim Glowicki of Poland, James Lawrie of Scotland, Wally Wright of England, Gerard Zappa of Belgium. We saw them all together, and then one by one on the posing plinth. They were great.

Next, the gymnasts. The first part of a team match between Frank Turner and Peter Stirling representing England, and

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ALL

THE



UNIVERSE

RESULTS

AMATEUR

Class 1

- 1st Bill Pearl (USA)
- 2nd John Less (England)
- 3rd Peter Farrar (England)
- 4th Gaston Sagart (Belgium)
- 5th Dennis Stafford (Wales)
- 6th Hubert Thomas (Wales)

Also competed

Les Bainbridge (England), George Barbic (USA), Prof. Ben (N. Ireland), M. Iqbal Butt (Pakistan), Tom Connery (Scotland), G. De Strooper (Belgium), Henry Downs (Jersey), Peter Gunn (England), Ted White (England), Andrei Zwierchowski (Poland), Bill Stevens (England).

Class 2

- 1st Eric Eastham (England)
- 2nd Gerard Monteverde (France)
- 3rd Maurice Arnaud (France)
- 4th George Baines (England)
- 5th equal, Gordon Mackay (Scotland)
Clive Foster (England)

Also competed

Marcel Desmedt (Belgium), Wayne Gaffron (USA), Tony Hillman (England), Ken Latham (England), Derek Maithorpe (England), Tony March (Jamaica), Keith Pickering (England).

Class 3

- 1st Jim Glowicki (Poland)
- 2nd Gerard Zappa (Belgium)
- 3rd Egidio Colacicco (England)
- 4th Wally Wright (England)
- 5th James Lowrie (Scotland)
- 6th Robert Armstrong (England)

Also competed

Vernon Dugan (England), John Francis (England).

AMATEUR MR. UNIVERSE — BILL PEARL (USA)

Professional

Class 1

- 1st Arnold Dyson (England)
- 2nd Reub Martin (England)
- 3rd Roger Novaro (Belgium)
- 4th Alex Gregorios (Greece)

Class 2

- 1st John Isaacs (South Africa)
- 2nd Jules Bacon (USA)
- 3rd Jim Saunders (England)
- 4th Spencer Churchill (England)
- 5th Henri Glorieux (Belgium)
- 6th equal, Jack King (England)
Dennis Winn (England)

Also competed

James Harris (England), Bert Loveday (England).

PROFESSIONAL MR. UNIVERSE — ARNOLD DYSON (ENGLAND)

JUDGES:—O. Heidenstam (England), N. Guet (England), Miss Joan Hunt (England), D. Webster (Scotland), E. Jenkins (Wales), G. Arax (France), E. Cracys (Belgium).



Reub Martin of ENGLAND



Jack King of ENGLAND

Ken Buffin and Ivor Vice representing Wales. We first saw these champions in floor exercises and those fellows are just out of this world! The audience gave them a terrific hand, and waited eagerly for their work on the parallels.

But before that there was something new in contests. This was a chinning the bar competition between four of the Mr. Universe contestants: Ken Latham of England, Iqbal Butt of Pakistan, Gerard Zappa of Belgium and Maurice Arnaud of France.

Good style

Each man had two attempts: one under-grasp and one over-grasp. At the end of the first round the scores were: Zappa 21, Arnaud 20, Latham 18, Butt 8.

But in the second round, on the more difficult over-grasp, Ken Latham dragged out everything he had, to win the contest, with 20 pulls over-grasp and a total of 38. Zappa and Arnaud tied for second place with totals of 33. I noticed by the way, that the young Frenchman made all his pulls in beautiful style, legs straight and toes together.

Mr. Universe again, this time the competitors in amateur class 2. A large class with George Baines of England, Eric Eastham of England, Marcel Desmedt of



Roger Novaro of BELGIUM



NABC boys club team



The Four Hercules



International skinning contest

Belgium, Wayne Gaffron of USA, Tony Hillman of England, Ken Latham of England, Gordon Mackay of Scotland, Derek Manthorpe of England, Tony March of Jamaica, Keith Pickering of England, Clive Poster of England, Maurice Arnaud of France, Gerard Monteverde of France.

Would you like to have judged that lot? You're right, neither would I!

The class 2 competitors went off to await the final verdict later in the show, and the gymnasts came back again for the second part of their international contest—this time on the parallel bars.

Immaculate in their white vests, and white trousers taped under their shoes, they used those parallels the way they really *should* be used. I think this must have been something of a needle match.

The final result was England 142.8, Wales 138.7. A wonderful show on the part of these stars of gymnastics.

Continental adagio

Les Novaros is a well-known continental adagio set, and Roger and Dinah provided a tasteful exhibition of this art. It was grace of movement shown at its best.

And then, still more Big Bods! The competitors in class 1 of the amateur Mr. Universe contest. On they came, the top



Smiling Jules Bacon of USA, runner-up in the class 2-professionals, receives his award from Hazel Cleaver.

That first class 1, which placed first to Pete Farrar of England, second place to John Lees of England—and first place to Bill Pearl of the USA.

And to Bill Pearl, also went the title of amateur Mr. Universe 1953.

He received a truly wonderful ovation that must have lasted three or four minutes. And from all sides of the house there were cries of "Speech, speech".

They guided Bill over to the microphone. I don't think he knew whether to laugh or to cry. He managed to get out a few words

MISSING

To provide space for a full Mr. Universe report it has been necessary to hold over some regular features. They will be back again in the next issue.

All Mr. Universe show photographs by Fred Cooper and Health & Strength official photographers.

of thanks, and then went back to the central plinth to pose again with his trophy as the thunderous applause broke out afresh.

That was the 1953 Coronation Year Mr. Universe show. A dazzling parade of super physiques before the biggest audience ever to attend these contests since they were started.



Fleetwood's Eric Fazham receives his class 2 amateur winner's award from Dorothy Peak. Behind him, L to R: Wally Wright, Gerard Zappa, George Baints.



The judges make their bow at the Palladium, L to R: Oscar Heidenstam, Norman Guest, David Webster, Emyln Jenkins, Joan Hunt, Edgar Craeys, Gregor Arax.

The judging : This year I was on the 'inside'

by OSCAR HEIDENSTAM

THIS year, instead of being in the line-up of competitors for this greatest of all physique contests, I had the honour of being on the "inside" as one of the seven judges.

I had never realised quite what a responsibility this is, or how many headaches the judging of such a contest presents, when trying to be fair to each and every competitor and picking the best six for the finals of each class.

Endurance feat

As the years have gone by since we started the Mr. Universe contests in this country, so the standard has improved, bringing us each year a more formidable array of athletes. This has made the first line-up almost an endurance feat for the competitors. The competition has become so close that each and every man needs very careful scrutiny before he can be eliminated as a possible finalist.

Our American friends, who were

experiencing their first physique contest in this country remarked on this. In the States they are judged from the stage only, whilst the judges sit in front with the audience.

As last year

They admitted, however, that in judging from the stage appearance only, many small defects can escape the notice of the judges. And many competitors, through clever posing, can hide their faults. Others may look good on the stage and poor when it comes to careful scrutiny. But by careful line up and comparison, and by allowing each competitor time to do whatever he likes before the actual show, little is likely to slip the notice of the judges.

The system of judging was the same as last year, each judge sitting quite separately and unable to confer with any other judge. After seeing the line up of each class, and seeing each individual posing or doing whatever else he wished, each judge then chose the six he wished to go forward into the final, without putting them in any order.

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Les Trois des Milles



Les Novarus

names in bodybuilding: Les Bainbridge of England, George Barbic of USA, Freddie Barr of Northern Ireland, Iqbal Butt of Pakistan, Tom Connery of Scotland, Gaston de Strooper of Belgium, Henry Downs of Jersey, Pete Farrar of England, Pete Gunn of England, John Lees of England, Gaston Sagaert of Belgium, Dennis Stallard of Wales, Hubert Thomas of Wales, Ted White of England, Andrei Zwierzchowski of Poland, Bill Stevens of England, Bill Pearl of USA.

Some old friends

With the show fast running to its close we could feel the tension tightening. Those final results would soon be given out!

But before that peak moment there were two more acts. The Rapids provided some comedy acrobatics with a Naval flavour. And then some old friends—*Les Trois des Milles*—in that sensational performance of theirs that always brings down the house. That afternoon Reub, Rusty and Len got one of the biggest ovations they have ever had. And they fully deserved it.

Off went *Les Trois des Milles* and it was time to see the finalists in the amateur Mr. Universe contest.

In class 2 Maurice Arnaud of France was third, Gerard Monteverde of France second, and our own Eric Eastham of Fleetwood took the class 2 award. A great

triumph for this likeable young man from Lancashire.

The awards were presented by lovely Dorothy Peak of Fleetwood, third in the Junior Miss Britain contest. And I think the noisiest cheer in the whole show came when Eric took his trophy and then gave

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blushing Dorothy a resounding kiss. That nearly took the Palladium roof off!

But relax, wolves, Dorothy is Eric's girl friend!

In class 3 Egidio Colacicco of England was third, Gerard Zappa of Belgium second, and Jim Glowicki of Poland (now living in Brighton) took the class 3 award. This fellow has terrific muscularity with good posture and proportions, and is a newcomer to big-time physique contests.

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