

VAN DYKE (Director) (25-50--non gendered) (Sophisticated and verbally adept--must be able to move the story along)

VAN DYKE: Hello everybody! Well, it's a great scene at "The Lux Radio Theatre" tonight. In our audience, we have Bette Davis, Jimmy and Lucille Gleason, Bob Armstrong, Ollie Olson of "Olson and Johnson", Stu Irwin, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Schlesinger? Maybe it would interest you to know a little inside information on the show we're doing tonight, "The Thin Man". And about William Powell and Myrna Loy, who are going to do it for you. As you know "The Thin Man" was a best selling novel by Dashiell Hammett. Hunt Stromberg down at the studio, MGM, got a hold of it and brought it to me. "Woody", he said, "If you'll make this picture, I'll buy the story!" Well, I read it. And while it was a good enough mystery story, there was something else about the book that struck me. Here was something new and fresh and very charming. A romance between a man and his wife. It's the story of a couple of kids that understood each other and had a blessed confidence in each other. Beneath all the casualness and all the wisecracking, there's a lovely, wholesome relationship. Something really deep and sweet, and inspiring. Well, we decided to make the picture. Albert Hackett and Frances Goodrich wrote a swell script. William Powell and Myrna Loy played the parts. And how! They played them beautifully! Because Powell was just Powell, and Loy was just Loy, both of them wisecracking all the time and clowning right through the picture! I suppose you know that plenty of motion pictures take from two months to a year to shoot. We did "The Thin Man" in sixteen days, retakes and all! Of course it wasn't a pretentious picture. : We didn't make it as one. I hate epics. But it was evident that people liked it. It has been very interesting to study out how they can tell this story on the radio. Bill and Myrna had a lot of fun getting it ready for you, just as they did making the picture. And from the original story, from the original motion picture cast, we have, and are fortunate in having, Minna Gombell, Porter Hall, William Henry, and Thomas Jackson here tonight. So here we go, with William Powell as Nick Charles and Myrna Loy as Nora in "The Thin Man"! Here they come, Bill Powell and Myrna Loy!