

Dear Ruth

UK : 1947 : dir. William D Russell : Paramount : 95 min
 prod: Paul Jones : scr: Arthur Sheekman : dir.ph.: Ernest Laszlo
[Mona Freeman](#)
 Joan Caulfield; William Holden; Edward Arnold; Billy DeWolfe; Mary Philips; Virginia Welles

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	⌘	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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“ The screen’s gayest love story!”



*The **Dangers of the Internet** were just a passing frown on the parental brow in the 1940s. Left to right: Joan Caulfield, Edward Arnold, Mary Philips and Mona Freeman*
 Source: Film Review 1947-48

Leonard Maltin’s Movie and Video Guide
 2001 review:

“Bouncy naïve comedy of errors with young girl pretending to be her older sister to impress soldier she corresponds with. Norman Krasna’s Broadway smash was also a Hollywood hit and led to sequels "DEAR WIFE" and "DEAR BRAT". **1/2 ”

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review – identical to
 above

Halliwell’s Film Guide review:

“A schoolgirl causes confusion when she writes love letters to a soldier using her elder sister’s photograph. Smoothly amusing family comedy from a Broadway success. Two less amusing sequels were made using virtually the same cast: "DEAR WIFE" (1949), "DEAR BRAT" (1951).
 * ”

"It is unlikely that 1947 will bring a more satisfying comedy... so many surprising and funny twists."

- John Thompson, **New York Mirror**

The Good Film and Video Guide review:

"A young lieutenant (William Holden) turns up to meet his pen-pal (Joan Caulfield), only to find that the "hot" letters he received were written by her teenage sister (Mona Freeman). Norman Krasna's long-running Broadway comedy becomes a predictable film, which was popular enough to require two sequels, **"DEAR WIFE"** and **"DEAR BRAT"**. * "

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89

review:

"Topical farce of 1947 is now rather obvious comedy about a youngster who has a hot correspondence with a soldier while posing as her older, attractive sister. **1/2 "

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. In **"DEAR WIFE"** (49) Mona tries to get Holden, now married to her sister, elected to the state Senate, and in **"DEAR BRAT"** (51) she pitches in to help a reformed criminal, but since she was actually 21 in 1947, the prospect of her still playing a troublesome teenage sister four years later seems less amusing. Her first film was **"NATIONAL VELVET"** in 1944, so she doesn't even qualify as a child actress, but has been included in the archive, like several male actors, as an "honorary adolescent".

Half a century before the curse of the mobile phone, people actually wrote letters to people, and several films have played on the comedy potential of wistful correspondents. See **"DEAR BRIGITTE"** (small maths prodigy Billy Mumy writes to Bardot) for example.

See subject index under **COMEDY** and **WRITING / PEN-PALS / CORRESPONDENCE**.