

BOB THOMAS

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Fonda's Husband Hints of Divorce

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — What's it like being married to a female activist? Difficult, says Roger Vadim, husband of Jane Fonda.

The matter came up as the French director was discussing his first

American film, "Pretty Maids All in a Row." Vadim has made a career of directing films about headstrong young women, notably those portrayed by his wives, Brigitte Bardot and Miss Fonda.



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Now, for the first time, his film is centered on a man, Rock Hudson.

"It is true that all my films have been about women, although there have been important parts for men in them," the director observed. "I don't know how that happened, except that artists do have certain obsessions that seem to be exemplified in their work. I was instinctively attracted to the female story."

"And yet I prefer the company of men. I like the male humor, the honest give-and-take with men. If I had to choose three persons with whom to make a round-the-world cruise, they would all be male."

"The trouble with female companionship is this: If a woman is intellectual, she begins to compete with the man and becomes aggressive; if she is not intellectual, she is boring to be with."

"That is man's fate: he is

doomed to be aggressed or bored." And what about life with Jane? She has lately been involved in causes beyond counting, showing up at rallies, demonstrations and marches all over the land.

VADIM responded with startling frankness:

"So far we have not discussed divorce but I must admit it is not a very satisfactory arrangement. Jane comes home a few days each month to visit me and our daughter, and then she is off again. Now she is starting a picture in New York, and I will be making one here."

"We are very good friends but we are not living the way that married people are supposed to live."

"It is difficult enough to live with an actress; actresses are necessarily very self-centered. But if the actress is also oriented toward politics, it can become very difficult. When she talks only about politics all the time, there is no time to establish feelings."

HAS HE TRIED to dissuade his wife from the constant diet of political endeavor?

"Yes, in a subtle kind of way. But I rapidly discovered there was no chance."

Miss Fonda declines to discuss her personal life.

Vadim sighed and shrugged in the Gallic manner: "Ah, well, everybody in this life is free. If you feel politics is the most important thing in the world to you, then you must make that choice."

Vadim chooses film making. "Pretty Maids" is his first movie since Jane's "Barbarell-