Life Paralleled In New Film

If Gregory La Cava were not shooting “Unfinished Business” at Universal “off the cuff,” he might be suspected of “lifting” Irene Dunne’s character from the star’s real-life story.

La Cava never uses a script, preferring to write dialogue and plot situations from day to day. His record of hits testifies to the merit of his method.

Because no one, sometimes including La Cava, knows what’s going to happen next, the director can hardly be accused of biographical plagiarism.

Yet in several ways Miss Dunne might be recreating a part of her own life in portions of her current portrayal.

The star is seen as a music teacher who graduates with high honors, leaves her home town and goes to New York to seek a career as a singing star. In real life Miss Dunne left her home town, Louisville, Ky., to attend the Chicago Musical College. She graduated with high honors, including a diamond award for singing excellence, and went to New York to seek a career as a singing star.

In real life, Miss Dunne was turned down after a Metropolitan Opera tryout. Same thing happens in this picture.

That is where the real-life and movie stories begin to diverge. In the picture, Miss Dunne becomes a night club soloist and fails to achieve singing stardom. In real life she became a musical comedy singer and eventually one of Broadway’s greatest stars.