

Griffith May Direct Ben Hur; Massive Pictures Under Way

Ince to Produce "The Christian"—Reviews of Early Releases Show Increased Popularity of New Plays—Goldwyn and First National May Merge, Rumors Indicate.

By JOHN E. KENNEBECK.

SHADOWS loomed up from the horizon of filmdom indicate marvelous activities in that world. With big pictures already storming the country, the change in film productions, as far as romantic appeal and attractive stories are concerned, is really noticeable. Predictions have come true. Will Hays' command—that of the voice of the people—has been heeded.

A transformation has taken place. It is indicated in the type of pictures scheduled for early release.

Important to the movie-loving public is the announcement that negotiations are under way to have David W. Griffith direct "Ben Hur," which should rival his "Birth of a Nation" and "Orphans of the Storm" for wonderful approval.

Another high light in the film industry is word that Thomas Ince will produce "The Christian."

Further information from the producing center of filmdom indicates that Goldwyn and First National will merge under the trade name of "First National." This does not mean that Goldwyn will quit producing plays, it has been explained, but will release its offerings through First National. However, the negotiations have not yet been concluded.

Rodolph Valentino's "Blood and Sand" went over "big" on Broadway, according to reports, and it is scheduled for early showing in Omaha.

Laurence Reid, a foremost motion picture critic, characterizes "Her Gilded Cage," featuring Gloria Swanson, as a story of romantic appeal. He further states that "The Bonded Woman," starring Betty Compson, and classified as one of the big pictures of the year, is rich in appeal.

Other pictures that have won ovations at premier showings are Paramount's "Mysteries of India" and "The People's Choice," Pathé's "Song of the Lark," a pastoral fantasy; "Borderland," a spiritualist picture; "Prisoner of Zenda," "The Masquerader," featuring Guy Bates Post, and "The Dictator," starring Wallace Reid.

While Omaha movie fans will look forward to the foregoing productions, this week's offerings along the theater row will appeal to them as high class entertainments.

C. K. Young at Rialto.

Youth, beauty, witchery, charm—all make up the atmosphere of "A Worldly Madonna," starring Clara Kimball Young at the Rialto theater this week.

The picture tells an alluring tale of gilded night life—a siren's life of sham. She fed herself on the applause of lounge lizards and sweet along on the wild side of the night life as closer and closer she unconsciously neared the danger line.

And then something happened—a tragedy—with the terrible ring of accusation pointing mercilessly at her. What should she do? She fled to the good sister in a convent and found succor there for her sorrow, while the good sister took up the burden.

Clara Kimball Young is said to have the best roles of her histrionic career in "A Worldly Madonna."

"Evidence" at World.

The great numbers who have advanced Elaine Hammerstein to a position among their favorites on the screen will be delighted with her achievements in "Evidence," which is at the World theater this week, with Niles Welch again appearing as her leading support.

As an actress who marries, against her best judgment, into a family of aristocratic snobs, Miss Hammerstein has opportunities to develop her superior qualifications as a delineator of dramatic roles. Always retaining a bearing of self-respect and confidence, Miss Hammerstein, in the role of Florette, meets opposition with stately resistance and finally wins completely the admiration and affection of the family that has so despicably flouted her.

Niles Welch plays the role of the aristocratic young husband who stands by his bride in her contest for recognition. Ernest Hilliard plays the role of an actor who stoops to despicable depths that he may be revenged for a jilting, and Holmes

Herber, plays the leading member of the family of snobs whom Florette fights single-handed.

Edith Roberts at Moon.

Romance, intrigue and adventure amid the big snows of the northwest form the theme of Jack London's stirring tale, "The Son of the Wolf," which opens its engagement at the Moon theater today for four days. Included in the story are some of the important dramatic incidents of Mr. London's other memorable story, "The Wife of a King," the blending of the two natives making a tale of thrilling drama.

Edith Roberts is the star. Smashing drama and big heart interest combine to make Jane Novak's first production, "Colleen of the Pine," a picture of unusually strong appeal to all classes of theater-goers.

It is scheduled for showing at the Moon theater next Thursday. The element of self-sacrifice on the part of an elder sister for the younger forms the theme of this unusually powerful tale of the open spaces of the northwest. The picture has abundant thrills, one of which is a hand-to-hand conflict between frontiersmen in a cabin, and the sudden and dramatic appearance of a dog which carries off a big share of the honors.

Meighan at Strand.

The story that George Loane Tucker was working on when he died, and which he had hoped would be a successor to "The Miracle Man," is Tom Meighan's new picture, "If You Believe It, It's So," which will be shown at the Strand theater this week.

The purchase of this story was in line with Paramount's policy of getting only the biggest stories and plays for Mr. Meighan. Tom Forman directed "If You Believe It, It's So." George Loane Tucker had selected this story as his next production and had started on the scenario when his untimely death occurred.

"If You Believe It, It's So," is a powerful story of underworld life and tells of the reformation of a city crook who goes to the country and finds love in a new environment. Pauline Stark, Joseph Dowling and Theodore Roberts have the principal supporting roles.

Leah Baird at Empress.

Leah Baird, who is author and star of "When the Devil Drives," which opens today at the Empress theater, shows how there is a little bit of good in the worst of us, and a little bad in the best. Consequently, when the devil drives, Judy O'Grady and the colonel's lady are sisters under the skin.

In this strong dramatic feature Miss Baird, as author, has endeavored to visibly portray the mind workings of two girls, born, reared and living in entirely different environments. One, religiously inclin-

ON THE SCREEN



Tom Meighan, Pauline Starke's Strand



Blaine Hammerstein World



Wallace Reid Louis Wilson Muse



Edith Roberts Moon



Clara Kimball Young Rialto

Program Summaries

World—Elaine Hammerstein in "Evidence."

Strand—Tom Meighan in "If You Believe It, It's So."

Moon—Today until Thursday, "The Son of the Wolf," beginning Thursday, "Colleen of the Pine."

Rialto—C. K. Young in "The Worldly Madonna."

Empress—Today until Thursday, "When the Devil Drives," beginning Thursday, "The Cub Reporter."

Muse—Today, "The Son of the Wolf," tomorrow and Tuesday, "Get Rich Quick Wallingford," Wednesday and Thursday, "Across the Continent," Friday and Saturday, "The Man Unconquerable."

ed, and the other, inclined to the contrary, when dominated by the same sequence of events, act along identical lines.

The story of "The Cub Reporter," which opens next Thursday at the Empress theater, relates the experience of Dick Harvey, a reporter for the Morning Times who is sent out

highway of romance and adventure—the transcontinental trial. All that forms the locale of "Across the Continent," featuring Wallace Reid at the Muse theater next Wednesday and Thursday. Lois Wilson is leading lady.

Edith Roberts is the chief attraction at the Moon theater today in "Son of the Wolf." It is a story of the far north.

"Get Rich Quick Wallingford" takes the screen at the Muse tomorrow and Tuesday. "It's a comedy drama.

Jack Holt is the featured player in "The Man Unconquerable," which comes to the Muse theater next Friday and Saturday. The locale of the story is the South Pacific islands.

Westward in a long unbroken line from New York's glittering isle to the blue Pacific, there runs a scarred

to get the story about the sacred jewel of Buddha, which came into possession of an American under peculiar circumstances.

He becomes entangled in a Chinese tong war, started to regain the jewel and has a thousand and one thrilling adventures, regaining the jewel and then finally winning a bride.

Wally Reid at Muse.

Westward in a long unbroken line from New York's glittering isle to the blue Pacific, there runs a scarred

Prince of Wales Appeals to Mabel as "Ideal Lead"

A visit to the actual settings of Thomas Burke's "Limehouse Nights," located in the poorer quarters of London; a sight-seeing tour of the Abbey and St. Pauls cathedral, with a trip through the shopping district of the capitol city of kings and queens, London, are a few of the things which have been receiving the attention of Miss Mabel Normand, film star, on her initial trip to Europe.

Harry Tate, favored comedian of the English stage, with Sophie Tucker, Fannie Ward and George Robey, are all doing their utmost to prove to the fascinating little American screen favorite that all the hospitality in the world is not confined within the boundaries of the United States, but a goodly portion of it is distributed on the opposite shores. A week end spent at the country home of Harry Tate at Sutton, Surrey, England, did much to convince Miss

Normand this was so. Between afternoon teas, theater parties and such, she has little time to do much more than dress herself for these various occasions.

According to the star's secretary, from whom this information comes, the English press and public are making more ado over her visit than has been accorded to almost any other traveling celebrity. To quote our informant: "Miss Normand is delighted with London. She thinks the police are the most handsome men she has seen and that the prince of Wales appeals to her as her ideal of a leading man, and the cathedrals and historic buildings fascinate her."

Make It Fifty-Fifty.

The latest Mack Sennett comedy contribution to the Associated First National Pictures, "Oh, Daddy!" has been submitted to a change in title. Instead of giving it all to the Daddy, it will be fifty-fifty and the picture will be known as "Ma and Pa." Billy Bevan and Mildred June are featured, jointly and have worked equally as hard in making it a class "A" laughmaker.

Here's Several Surprises from Film Celebrities

Would it surprise you to know— That Wallace Reid once edited an automobile magazine?

That Betty Compson played a violin in the orchestra of the Mission theater, Salt Lake City?

That Theodore Kosloff, best known dancer and cinema star, is also a painter with a record price of \$10,000?

That W. M. Ferguson, 57 years on the stage, is one of the few living persons who were on the stage when Lincoln was shot?

That Arthur Rankin, perpetual juvenile in the nephew of John Drew and cousin of Ethel, Lionel and John Barrymore?

That Conrad Nagel once swung a swift hook in the 100-yard dash while at the Highland Park college, Des Moines, Ia.

Did you know that? Ha! Ha! I guess not!

RIALTO
Direction of A.H. Blank
STARTS THURSDAY

Orphans of the Storm
Adapted from "The Two Orphans"

Empress
Two shows in one.
TODAY—FOR FOUR DAYS

When the Devil Drives
By and With Leah Baird

Drama, such as this, is seldom seen. Deep and tender, strong and stirring, this photoplay shows two women, "sisters under the skin."

See these wonderful colors, the luxuriant and gowned settings, the beautiful star, and a searching story women love and men crave to see.

Strand
DIRECTION OF A.H. BLANK

TODAY ALL WEEK
At 11, 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9

700 Bst. Seats, 30c
Main, 40c; Boxes, 50c
Week Day Mats., 25c

THOMAS MEIGHAN
THEODORE ROBERTS

LURA ANSEN (of Omaha)
Pauline Starke—Chas. Ogle
and splendid cast.

In the story selected by the George Loane Tucker to follow his famous photoplay, "The Miracle Man."

He planned to star Thomas Meighan in it.

This picture is the first of Paramount's big new photoplays.

"IF YOU BELIEVE IT, IT'S SO."

Mr. Tucker believed it to be one of the finest stories ever written. It deals with human souls, much in the manner of "The Miracle Man," though there is nothing of "faith healing" in it.

Thomas Meighan portrays the role of a New York crook who goes far from the city to start life anew and falls in love, but dare not tell of his past.

Really His Best Picture in Over Two Years

Theodore Roberts has never equalled his characterization in that of the philanthropic-looking crook.

A Knockout Burlesque on "WAY DOWN EAST," Called "THE HAPPY PEST" Fox Comedy with Al St. John

STRAND ORCHESTRA
HARRY SILVERMAN, Director
Offering the Overture, "APPLE BLOSSOMS"

The flaming eyes
The murderous snarl
The dagger teeth
The headlong plunge
AND THE BRUTE WAS UPON HIM!

Jack London's
roaring melodrama of the North
The Son of the Wolf

See the flaming love story amid the Arctic snows—How an Indian maid fights courageously for the love of a white man and wins—how her man falls and then, with real love aroused, triumphs with skill and faith.

MOON
Today—Tomorrow—Tuesday

MUSE
at 11 P. M.

RIALTO
A.H. Blank

NOW TILL WED. NITE

IDOL OF MILLIONS

CLARA KIMBALL YOUNG

—In—
"THE WORLDLY MADONNA"

The nightly jazz with its gilded lure of underdressed women and overdressed men held possession over her.

Two men loved her—yet she doubted them both—and rightly, yet secretly she coveted their attentions.

—COMEDY—
Johnny Hines in "Torchy's Feud"
Johnson at the Organ, Playing "MARY DEAR"

EXTRA
Inauguration of President McKinley
Motion Pictures Taken 25 Years Ago