

War Play Bites

"What Price Glory," Bitter Barrack Room Ballad—A Few That Are Not So Good

By PERCY HAMMOND.

New York, Sept. 13. ALTHOUGH the authors of "What Price Glory" are relentless pacifists, they are willing to admit that war is not without its drawbacks. Mitigating the hellishness of an odious occupation, they discover some grim facetiae in the practice of arms. Squalor and misery predominate, of course, among the soldiers, but there are also amending compensations. Even the most brutalized of the grenadiers in "What Price Glory" are amusing men with a grisly sense of humor.

This play is the first real wallow of the season. Its authors, Maxwell Anderson and Laurence Stallings, were active not long ago upon the battlegrounds; and Mr. Stallings, as a captain of marines, was mutilated on the last day in Belleau Wood. Both, moreover, are notable journalists of the New York Journal, one an editorial writer, the other a critic of so-called books. So their collaboration in a war play was bound to be authentic, sophisticated and picturesque.

I suspect that neither of them wished to be picturesque. To be sardonic was their aim, to expose in photographic terms, the superstitious ingloriousness of earth's fundamental glory. But the call of those who love the drama summoned them to be a little theatrical. Gray is the prime essence of the theater, and so "What Price Glory" had to have its graveness in order to tickle the palates of the customers.

These sauces, however, are not apple-sauces. The play is a humorous-bitter report of life in a company of United States marines, operating in France on behalf of democracy. The captain (Mr. Louis Wolheim) is a brave, drunken and amorous fighting berserker. His opponent, the first sergeant (Mr. William Boyd) is equally courageous and unworthy. Though members of the American corps d'elite, they profess no illusions about their necessary killing. They curse and swear and flirt and drink, and they hate one another as man to man. The captain, gulping his whisky-glowers at the top sergeant and saying, "Here's looking into your grave!" When the captain assigns the sergeant to a perilous errand he roars: "Keep your head down, chief! I'm showing of grave-diggers." And near the end they play cards to determine which one shall possess the pretty daughter of the innkeeper.

It is an intelligent, entertaining, humorous and different war-play, the very, very best of the series, a wise, humorous and bitter barrack room ballad.

The performances of Mr. Wolheim (readily a professor Cornell as the baboonish captain and of Mr. Boyd as the slim and eventful top sergeant were wonder-works of senescent comedy. American actors as a rule do not seem natural when wearing soldier clothes, but the players in "What Price Glory" deputed themselves with an admirable fidelity to the atmosphere of war. Mr. Arthur Hopkins, the respectable producer, was a little ashamed of the profanity in the dialogue, and he apologized in the playbill for having been forced, in the interests of verisimilitude, to employ such blasphemous. While all the roles were acted more than competently, I thought that Miss Levia George's quiet characterization of a frail French girl, slipping gracefully from marine to marine, was a little masterpiece. I haven't enjoyed myself so much in a theater since that first performance of "Rain," "What Price Glory." I think, is a ruddy gem. But, like several other pleasures, it is too good to be true.

"The Green Beetle" by the author of "The Cat and the Canary," is not a drama that I can recommend to high-brow readers. It is about a ridiculous San Francisco Chinaman and his solemn feud with the White Devil who ruined his Chinese lady-love at an early age. "Through the Index" which is known in Chicago, is like something that you buy at a soda fountain or a five-and-ten-cent store. In "The Trantum," Miss Robert Arnold is exhibited as a loud and annoying resident of Long Island who raises the devil with her patient husband by her bad temper and worse language. It is an impossible if not convincing entertainment. "Be Yourself," a musical comedy by Messrs. Kauffman and Connelly, our clowns de luxe, is an expedient pot-boller, saved from utter stupidity by the efforts of Miss Genevieve Smith, the most talented of the current soubrettes.

AT THE THEATERS



Rerie Chaplow AT THE WORLD



Alice Brady AT THE ORPHEUM



Mae Kennis AT THE EMPRESS



Grace Wallace AT THE GAYETY



Mitchell Harris AT THE BRANDEIS

Brandeis Season Starts With 'The Deluge,' Powerful Drama

The cast of "The Deluge" is one of the most unusual and remarkable that has ever been upon the stage. For during the three acts of the most intense drama, there are eight men and only one woman. Yet so well are the difference life-values handled, the love interest predominates even over the stark terror, hatred, emotional repentance, and over the danger of death.

The handling of these different aspects of humanity is sensationally vivid. Imagine nine people, eight men and one lone woman, all of different ranks of life, ranging from a visionary Swede vagabond to a powerful lawyer, and the woman of the streets, bitter and disillusioned, looking together to await death. Here are not only as many variant interests, but enemies trapped in the same room—a betrayed sweetheart facing the man who wronged and deserted her—social opposites looking for the first time at one another with wonder in their eyes.

The enforced intimacy and the threatened disaster bring them to a sense of exaltation. They grow maudlin; they forgive one another with grandiloquent gestures, and they form a chain of brotherhood which, they assure each other, will endure beyond and in spite of the grave. Sadie, the woman, forgives her lover. Hating him at first, gradually the old tender memories sweep in upon her, and she sinks in his arms, feeling secure in the revival of his passion.

William Le Maire and Carol Ralston, Le Maire is a blackface comedian of considerable reputation. Snappy up-to-date comedy songs will be offered by the Three American Aces, a trio of male singers who have been scoring a decided hit in other cities of the circuit. "He Smiles as He Thrills" is the billing of Harry Teuda, a daring entertainer who offers a program of unusual gymnastics. Arthur J.ays will present another one of his organ originals.

Edna Wallace Hopper, a flapper at 62, is the headliner of the bill starting Saturday which also includes an all feminine orchestra in Janet Anderson's sycophants, 11 maids of melody.

Joe Marion, producer of the new company, is regarded as one of the most capable men in his line in the theatrical field. The principals, numbering over 15, have been recruited from the ranks of musical shows all over the country. Bert Smith, owner of the company, believes that the chorus with the Empress players compares favorably with the best anywhere.

The Empress Players have set themselves to beat the record established by the Bert Smith players, who remained here 24 weeks. If the reception accorded the new company the opening week is any criterion they will be in Omaha for many months to come.

Alice Brady Heads Orpheum Bill in Her New Comedy Classic

A distinctive feature of this week's Orpheum bill which opens, with a matinee today, is the appearance of Miss Alice Brady, beautiful star of stage and screen, who is making her vaudeville debut this season in "Cassie Cook of the Yellow Sea," a vivid character study of a waif of the water front. The sketch, a thrilling love episode is taken from her legitimate success, "Drifting."

Miss Brady is one of the most gifted women of the contemporary stage. She has made an enviable name for herself in the portrayal of emotional roles, has sung her way through light opera and has won a place among the best in motion pictures. Among her successes are "Forever," "Anna Ascends," both the film and the play and "Zander the Great," in which she was starred last season. She is the daughter of William A. Brady.

Frank Davis and Adele Darnell, "The Birdseed Couple" have a new offering this season called "Caterpillars." The flippant, glib-tongued house-to-house canvasser of "Bird Seed" is revived, in another and better drawn manner. "The Flip and the Flapper" a bit of musical comedy, will be presented by Donald Kerr and Effie Weston. Mr. Kerr supplies the eccentric, acrobatic and jazz steps and his beautiful partner delineates the classic. Mel Klee, blackface monologist, calls himself "The Joy Boy." Mel Klee is an old Chinese name which means "laughter." Amac, sleight of hand artist will mystify and perplex you with "The Great-Three Card Illusion." How does he do it? Come and see, and then go home and do likewise. Amac offers a substantial reward to any one who can solve his feat to the point of performing it.

A most unusual songstress is Gene Granes who has personality and individuality as well as fine voice. She is assisted by her brother, Charles Granes, and Tito De Flore. Will Ferry, the frog, is here in all his slithering aliveness.

A feature of the musical program will be the overture "Spain" by Isham Jones.

Empress Company Has New Musical Surprise

A matrimonial musical farce is "Lovey Mine" offered by the Empress Players this week. It bubbles with comedy situations, dialogue and spectacular musical numbers. Olga Brooks appears in the feminine leading role. Helen Barke, ingenue lead, is again given a splendid part. Pat Patterson gives a laughable portrayal of an Irishman. Bert Evans and Joe Marion are the other featured players in "Lovey Mine." Marion being responsible for the staging of the production as well.

Little Mae Kennis, who scored one of the hits of the opening bill, is to be seen in an entirely different series of comedy numbers. Dick Butler does a series of character studies in song. Fred Wilson, "dancing sheik" has a strut novelty that promises to find much favor. Maybelle La Couver, Bobby Whalen and the Delmar quartet are also in evidence in the various musical presentations. Among the spectacular ensemble numbers to be introduced is

Eternal Flapper Is Coming to World Soon



Edna Wallace Hopper

More than 30 years ago, when the reigning musical successes of the day were "Florodora" and "Wang," Edna Wallace Hopper was being touted as one of the stars of these productions. A member of the original "Florodora" sextet, Miss Hopper, now a woman of 62, is still as active and alert as she was in the days of our fathers, and grandmothers.

Known as the "Eternal Flapper," Miss Hopper is said to retain the charms and appearance of youth. In her fight against the ravages of Father Time she has aroused wide discussion. How she does it will be entertainingly explained at the World next week, where she appears in an act especially written for her by Raymond Hitchcock.

one called "Stories," introducing Bobby Whalen, Mae Kennis, Dick Butler, Olga Brooks, Maybelle La Couver, Pat Patterson and the chorus.

For the finale Marion has devised an oddity which he calls "This Toy Show." Opening with a song by the quartet there is then presented a half dozen different characters dressed as toys with a novel "Wooden Soldier" parade at the finish.

Benson Bluejackets Are to Remain at Krug Park Till Close on Sept. 21

Krug park will close next Sunday at midnight, the management has announced. The Benson Bluejackets of Chicago, which were scheduled to conclude their engagement in the ballroom tonight, will be held over for the final week.

Despite the lateness of the park season the patronage has held up well, according to Fred Ingersoll, manager. Special events are booked for the week. The park will be reserved exclusively for the Shrine jubilee and initiation Monday. The festivities start at 7 p. m. and last till midnight.

The Knights of Columbus hold their annual family frolic Tuesday. Dancing, contests and games are on the program. Wednesday and Thursday nights the Central Markets and the North Omaha merchants, respectively, will hold an outing for their customers. Ad-Sell club members will be guests of the park in the ballroom Thursday night. The Kiwanis club and the

Scottish Rite Woman's club will be dance guests Friday night.

On Saturday the park will give Omaha girls an opportunity to captivate their bobbed hair, by giving a prize to the first 1,000 bobbed haired girls to enter the park after 7:30 p. m.

Fast Steppers to Give Gayety Thrills This Week

Ed E. Daley is sponsoring a new offering as "Fast Steppers" to be revealed to patrons of the Gayety this afternoon. The featured comedian is Irving Selig, who, playing a boob

character, has won many warm admirers around the "wheel." Splitting top-line honors is Mae Dix, who has scandalized to popularity through her "shivery" dances and projection of "blue" selections. Others in the cast are Jules Howard, Dutch delinquent; Ollie Dehrow, blackface comedian; Fay Tunis, who has the role of a French "vamp"; Gordon Bennett, singing juvenile; Lew Denny, vocal straight; Grace Wallace, piquant ingenue; and Jimmie Van, singer and instrumentalist. Princess Mysteria, the human radio, climaxes a show of unusual novelties.

WORLD

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Sandy Lang & Co.

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3 AMERICAN ACES | HARRY TSUDA | ART HAYS

On the Screen—An Absorbing Mystery Play

"DARK STAIRWAYS"

With Herbert Rawlinson, and a New Mack Sennett Comedy, "Wall Street Blues"

Starting NEXT SATURDAY

The Most Talked About Woman in America Who is Still a Girl at 62

Edna Wallace Hopper

"THE ETERNAL FLAPPER"

In an Act Written Especially for Her by Raymond Hitchcock

NEW EMPRESS

Musical plays of the highest type, superbly staged and gowned

EMPRESS PLAYERS

(SECOND SUCCESSFUL WEEK)

Offer the fun-filled farce-comedy of matrimonial mishaps,

"Lovey Mine"

With Pat Patterson, Joe Marion, Olga Brooks, Mae Kennis, Helen Burke, Bert Evans, Maybelle La Couver

CAST OF THIRTY TWO

ON THE SCREEN,

"The Miracle Makers"

With Leah Baird, George Walsh

NEXT SATURDAY

First story of the great film Mystery Chapter Play ever filmed,

"Into the Net"

What Became of 20 New York Society Girls???

Orpheum

ORPHEUM CIRCUIT VAUDEVILLE

Week Starting Today's Mat.

A PROGRAM OF SUPER-EXCELLENCE

Alice Brady

IN "CASSIE COOK OF THE YELLOW SEA"

A Gentleman in Black MEL KLEE The Joy Boy

A M A C With his three card illusion Presents "The Illusion Lady"

DONALD KERR & EFFIE WESTON

IN "THE FLIP AND THE FLAPPER"

FID JOHNSTON—The California Favorite—at the Piano

JEAN GRANASE The Unusual Songstress

The Original FERRY The Frog in "The Magic Lagoon"

THE BIRDSEED COUPLE

FRANK DAVIS & ADELE DARNELL

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ALWAYS GOOD—USUALLY GREAT

"FAST STEPPERS"

Nothing out of the Ak-Sar-Ben Show

Mae Dix, Irving Selig, Fay Tunis, Jules Howard, Silver Voiced Gordon Bennett and a HUMDINGER CHORUS

Any Questions Pertaining to Business, Love, Travel, Success, etc. Answered Without Hesitation.

Today's Bargain Matinee at 3:30. BEST SEATS 50c. Mature customers should be turned away than can get



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