

Old Theme Wins

New York Listens Nightly to Knock on Marriage at the Theaters; Enjoys Them, Too

By PERCY HAMMOND

THE drama this season seems to be more opposed to matrimony than usual. Although I have taken no census in the matter, I estimate that at least 20 of the current plays deal with wedlock in an uncompromising fashion. Even the comedians are disposed to be cross with the sacred institution, and such innocent pleasures as "The Pottery" and "The Show Off" are cynical.

Young persons (especially young men) who are knocking at Hymen's gate must, if they are drama lovers, be frightened by the omens. And in a metaphor more timely, feel inclined to put the four-wheel brakes on the comic urge. At present the stage is an instrument of ecstacy and spinsterhood. It assembles all the torments which, as the old saying goes, lie in the small circle of a wedding ring; and it makes of them a chamber of horrors. Congdon, contemplating a paradise with Phillis may view these death-heads, and decide to remain a bachelor. And Phillis, learning from the stage that a husband at times is an impediment to the full expression of herself, may be tempted to misogamy. In case the theater wields the influence that it is said to do, we shall, in an age or two, become a world of persons born, if properly permitted me to say so, out of wedlock. They tell me that fiction and history are similarly discouraging about the altar vows and their consequences, but as a specialist in the drama, I am not concerned with the less consequential arts and sciences.

The most terrifying of the recent exhibitions are Mr. Belasco's "Tiger Cats" and Miss Barrymore's "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray." If there is, as no doubt there is, a league for the promotion of matrimony, it should interfere and forbid such hindrances to mating. Poor Aubrey Tanqueray! He tried the thing twice, both times with no success. One of his wives was a good woman, the other was bad, but neither of them was satisfactory. At that he had better luck than Mr. Robert Lorain, as Andre, Cats.

Andre's wife (Miss Katherine Cornell) was a snaky, toxic decadent who mused and shames as deeply as these of Phedra or the daughter of Herodias. While the earnest Andre was dictating scientific lectures to Jacqueline, his appreciative amanuensis, he and other wanton paraphernalia and boasted of her recent infidelities. To prove how slim a chance a serious man has with a woman whose body is a fascinating hell, Andre shoots at Suzanne from a distance of three feet, or—according to French measurements, a meter—and falls to kill her. As the final curtain drops he grovels at her feet like a whipped worm and she hisses some venomous words of triumph.

The dull Tanqueray gets a better break. After the second Mrs. Tanqueray discovers that her stepdaughter's lover is none other than one of the men with whom in her past she had kept house, she kills herself. It has been 31 years since Mrs. Pat Campbell as Paula made Aubrey Tanqueray again a widower. And I'll wager that poor sap has been unhappily married many times since. I can imagine him now, at the age of 70, being noble and true to his fifth and most unsuccessful helpmate.

Miss Barrymore is blond as Paula Tanqueray, and she is thin almost to the point of being beautiful gaunt. She follows the tradition of Mrs. Campbell in her impersonation, and so we have a second Mrs. Tanqueray who was Finero-Campbell Barrymore.

At the Theatres



Elsie Janis ORPHEUM



Olga Petrova BRANDEIS



Laura & Billy Dreyer WORLD



Althea Barnes GAYETY



Helene Burke EMPRESS

a generous combination. The old play limps a little, but it is still a sturdy edifice, weakened considerably by an undistinguished if not incompetent cast. Mr. Henry Daniel as Tanqueray and Mrs. Lional Payne as Cayley Drumme are but timid, chattering ghosts of the fine players who have gone before them. Mr. Arthur Hopkins, the producer, should, I think, have been gentler with a play that 30 years ago was a brave, good pioneer, and which now is far better, with its few seed faults, than the best of the current Broadway things of its kind.

The season's cause celebre is the controversy between Mr. and Mrs. John Barrymore and Miss Sophie Treadwell, a distinguished New York journalist, over the dramatic bones of Edgar Allan Poe. Miss Treadwell having composed a stage biography of that forlorn genius, sent it to Mr. Barrymore with the suggestion that he, rather than any other actor on earth, could realize its possibilities. In that impression Mr. Barrymore agreed with Miss Treadwell. But "Michael Strange" (Mrs. Barrymore) dissented from those opinions and herself continues a drama upon the same topic. Arguments and litigation followed, Miss Treadwell suing for the return of her manuscript, which Mr. Barrymore had retained. After a year and a half, and after a lawsuit for years, and Mrs. Barrymore angrily demanding damages of \$200,000 for libel, et cetera.

All of the persons involved in this aesthetic altercation are either friends or acquaintances of mine, and so I may not root conscientiously for any of them. Being opposed to the biographical drama as the lowest form of the mimetic art, I doubt that there are laws to prohibit

Petrova in Her Own Play Opens at Brandeis Tonight

"Hurricane," the second play from Olga Petrova's pen, which has made a striking success in New York last season and holds the distinction of breaking all records for the run of a dramatic play in a roof theater, will come to the Brandeis tonight to play through Wednesday with a Wednesday matinee, with the celebrated author-star at the head of her own company.

The leading character of Ika is utterly new in its conception. Ika's story is an intensely dramatic portrayal of a girl's tremendous struggle to lift herself out of a life of ignorance and degradation on a farm where the only future for her is a repetition of her mother's hopeless, sordid existence as the wife of a brutish farmer.

Ika's revolt crystallizes into action not only for her own sake but through seeing her powerlessness to help her mother out of the ultimate state of her misery. Ika determines to deliver from bondage her young exhibition of Edgar Allan Poe upon the Broadway stage. Still, as a disciple of Mr. Barrymore's showmanship, I regret that circumstances prevent him from playing in a piece for which he has so much admiration.

Mr. Barrymore's present irritation and that of "Michael Strange" and Miss Treadwell, should convince the aspiring dramatists that play-making has its perplexing aspects.

er and crippled sister and to provide her with the protection of a career. Through successive bitter experiences Ika remains true to her course and accomplishes the great ends she had set for herself.

Through it all Ika retains her sense of humor and, if the audience frequently laughs at Ika, it is as often laughs with her. Mixed with the naked realism and swift penetration that has caused "Hurricane" to be likened to Dostoevsky's fearless writing, there is a keen wit and humor that brings laughter in the midst of Ika's severest trials. Ika becomes truly great when experience has taught her the philosophy of laughing at life without being frivolous.

Frank Tuttle, who will direct Bebe Daniels in "Miss Bluebeard," has returned to the Famous Players' Long Island studio from Asheville, N. C., where he and Townsend Martin, scenarist, prepared the script. Work is to be started on the production within a few days.

Advertisement for GAYETY theatre, featuring "GO TO IT" and "CLEAN CLAY" with showtimes and prices.

LECTURE

By JAMES J. WALSH, M. D., Ph. D., Sc. D. Noted Author and Speaker

"Health Through Will Power"

Hotel Fontenelle Friday Evening, November 7th, 8 P. M. TICKETS \$1.00

Advertisement for Paul Biese, Champion Victor Recording Orchestra, featuring "America's Greatest Individual Artist" and "Hear Paul Biese Play His Diamond-Studded Saxophone".

Elsie Janis Tops Orpheum Bill With Her Latest Novelty

Elsie Janis, whose character creations have charmed both Europe and America, comes to the Orpheum this week with her concert company as the conspicuous attraction on an excellent bill of vaudeville. Appearing in only seven cities, Omaha is fortunate to be included in Miss Janis' tour this season. Miss Janis is giving "impressions" of current stars on Broadway in their latest hits. Her company includes Robert Brown Farley, pianist, and Walter Vern Pidgeon, baritone.

As a delineator of feminine types Herbert Clifton does not specialize in the fair young things. Probably the best of his impersonations is that of the scrub woman. Joe Brownning knows comedy from a wan smile to uproarious laughter. In his "Timely Sermon" this quaint character comedian dispenses sound advice on the follies of the day. The Robbins family numbers seven versatile and likeable funsters. This aggregation of talent is known as vaudeville's cleverest family act. Their offering includes songs, dances and acrobatic stunts. The Keller sisters and Frank Lynch are an excellent example of the "Spirit of Youth". They are a musical trio, one of the girls plays the piano, the other the violin and Mr. Lynch is a saxophonist. A high class dance act features Sam Berk and Juanita Saun. Among the best of their dance steps is a variety of Russian backsteps and a new arrangement of modern dances. Amazon and Nile present contortion fantasy in a picturesque and an amazing manner.

Two complete shows will be given at the Orpheum on election night. The first show starts at 7:45 and the second at 10:30 o'clock. There will be a private wire on the stage and the first returns will be announced at 7:30.

At both performances Thursday the theater will celebrate the 70th birthday anniversary of John Philip Sousa, premier musical director and march composer. The favorite compositions of the march composer will be played by the theater orchestra.

Gayety Presents An Unusual Form of Burlesque This Week

Many novelties new to Columbia burlesque are promised in William S. Campbell's "Go To It," scheduled as this week's twice daily attraction at the Gayety theater, starting at 3 to 5 p.m.

Of the capable cast of principals Gene Shuler and Jim Carlton are the stars. An altogether pleasing burlesque chorus contributes a portion to an entertainment that will be further benefited by the presence of Althea Barnes, prima donna and featured; Miss Bobby Blair, Helen DuRoss, Louise Gardner, Yvonne Zettea, Wally Jackson, Melino, Lisette and Kogan, Jack McSorley, Andy Francis and John Ross. Some of the settings are declared to be of surpassing beauty, particularly "In Velvet Land," with its sea of ostrich feathers featuring the costuming of a stageful of singing and dancing choristers. There will be clever comedy in "The Stork Factory" and "The Old Drug Store" and a particularly ornate setting has been provided for "Apple Blossom Time" with its urbane apple tree in full bloom. Vaudeville interludes will feature the diversified entertainment with Malino, Lisette, Kogan, Louise Gardner, Wally Jackson, Carlton and McSorley and Yvonne Zettea, presenting specialties that range from neck-ringing acrobatics to dancing in all styles. "Go To It"—there will be lots of good entertainment. Extra midnight show at 11:30 Tuesday night. Election returns by special wire read from the stage frequently. Ladies' matinee at 2:15 daily.

Advertisement for Orpheum Theatre, featuring Elsie Janis and her company, with showtimes and prices.

Advertisement for Brandeis Theatre, featuring Olga Petrova and her company, with showtimes and prices.

John Philip Sousa, Three Score and Ten, Honored at Orpheum

On Thursday, November 6, the Orpheum theater will observe the 70th birthday anniversary of John Philip Sousa, eminent bandmaster and march composer. In all the major vaudeville houses throughout the country each theater orchestra will play Sousa's best known compositions and announcements of the anniversary will be flashed on the picture screen.

In paying this homage to Mr. Sousa, vaudeville is endeavoring to express its gratitude to this famous man, who has always been its loyal friend. On countless occasions he has given his time and the services of his organization to assist at benefit performances for the National Vaudeville Artists.

Sousa has had a long and remarkable career as a premier musical director. In 1890 he was appointed bandmaster for the United States marine corps, which position he held for 12 years, during which time he attained world-wide fame, both as a composer and conductor. During the world war he directed a band of 1,200 pieces at the Great Lakes Naval Training station. Very few seasons pass that he does not make an extended tour with one of his musical aggregations, and this has made him personally well known throughout the United States.

Among the most popular of his compositions are "Stars and Stripes Forever," acknowledged to be the greatest military march ever written; "National Emblem," "Semper Parvula," "Washington Post," "El Capitain" and "Sabers and Spurs."

Public Knows Not What It Wants, Says Olga Petrova

"Does the public know what it wants before it gets it? No, I think it does not," said Olga Petrova in an interview during the sensational success of "Hurricane" in New York last winter. Madame Petrova is both author and star of this play, which comes to the Brandeis tonight, to play through Wednesday night with a Wednesday matinee.

"The only formula an author can

have is to do the best he can and let the audience take it or leave it as it catches or does not catch their fancy. Now and then a play that is closed after a brief run is later revived and becomes a success—"Yellow Jacket," for example. The only way to find out whether the public wants a play today is to play it. "In preparing my plays and plays I use the indirect method," continued Madame Petrova, who not only writes and acts, but even directs her own plays. "Instead of going to rehearsal with memorized lines, in the beginning, we go with manuscripts and just talk about the play. We get the atmosphere first and then the souls of the characters develop. I don't want any actor or actress to play a part he or she can't feel. "Rather than have a theory of acting, we try to be natural. So, in my manuscripts I do not outline any 'business.' Whatever is natural we do. Then if any awkwardness develops, we give the person in such difficulty something to help him through that place."

Shuberts Send the First Musical Show of Omaha

"Sally, Irene and Mary," musical comedy, will be presented at the Brandeis theater. The engagement is for Nov. 10 and 11. The Messrs. Shubert, sponsors for this musical show, are sending here the original New York cast, with Eddie Dowling, who wrote the book, as its star. Louise Brown, who made a tremendous hit as a dancer in the east, is its featured player. Some of the other well known players in the cast are Josie Intropidi, Florence Grayfield, Kathleen Mulqueen, Grace Studford, D. J. Sullivan, Herbert Hoey, Burford Hampden and a host of others, the company numbering 60 people. And last but not least is the famous Cinderella chorus from the Casino theater, New York. There are many hitting melodies in "Sally, Irene and Mary," catchy songs and unusual good dance numbers. It's in two acts and nine scenes. Mr. Dowling and Cyrus Wood wrote the book. Raymond Kline wrote the lyrics and J. Fred Coats is responsible for the music. The entire production is under the personal supervision of Mr. J. J. Shubert.

Advertisement for Tom Brown and his Six Brown Brothers, featuring a musical play of season and a smashing six-act bill.

Advertisement for Dixie Darling and The White Sin, featuring musical comedy and a story of the fascinating series.

Advertisement for The Brandeis Store Restaurants, featuring Election Supper and Dancing Till 2 A. M.