

Music Box Lafs

Strange at It May Seem,
This Revue Really Has
Its Comic Moments.

By PERCY HAMMOND,
New York, Dec. 6.

The new Music Box Revue is a proud picture book and more. Besides being a feat in disbursement, it also is a comic thing—which is unusual in an American extravaganza. The performers who add laughter to the cut purses of Messrs. Harris and Berlin are Miss Fannie Brice and "Bobbie" Clark. Mr. Clark interrupts the costly tableaux with a dozen bits of broad travesty, and Miss Brice contributes a repertory of grotesque songs and dances.

When it is said that the Music Box Revue is comic it is meant that it is comic for a Broadway spectacle. A sense of humor is not often part of the equipment of a New York impresario. Association with the artistic temperaments is not conducive to smiling. Neither are bank accounts ravaged to buy scenery and ladies' wear. So such smiles as you get in one of these circuses is more or less velvet. And very often this velvet is just plush.

For example, you may doubt the humor of the following joke made by Mr. Clark. His accomplice, Mr. McCullough, appears with a toothbrush pinned to his coat lapel. Asked to explain the significance of that emblem, Mr. Clark replies: "It's a college pin. He's from Colgate." For the benefit of those unversed in education it should be said that Colgate is also the name of an eastern university. It is now a practice of revue librettists to dramatize the popular anecdotes—the "Have-you-heard-this-one?" stories that are wont to set the tables in a roar. In the Music Box Revue Mr. Clark and a competent cast act the familiar tale about the banker's glass eye. Although every Rotarian in the first night audience heard the tale frequently by its repetition in dramatic form pleased them immensely. May I record another successful wheeze which won approval at the premiere? Mr. Clark, representing an animal trainer, cracks a huge whip. "You do it very well," remarks Mr. McCullough. And Mr. Clark replies: "It's a snip."

Miss Brice is most admired in a song-play about a Russian immigrant who at Ellis Island is forbidden to land on these fastidious shores. Just as you are about to burst into tears over her predicament she utters a plea something like this:

I promise to work the best I can,
I'll even wash sheets for the Ku-Klux-Klan.

And this:
I want to build a little nest
For Jack and Lee and Marie's Geat.

Miss Grace Moore, the most azure of the Broadway prima donnas, lifts her silvery voice in several of Mr. Berlin's melting hymns, the best of them being "Listening." She sings almost everything in Mr. Berlin's excellent pastory, from lullabies to ballads. In some of them she has the skilful assistance of Mr. Oscar Shaw, who, I think, speaks the solemn language of musical comedy less seriously than any other young man of my acquaintance.

As the finale of the first half of the show, Miss Moore renders the "Way Down Upon the Suwanee River" song. With the aid of a good band and a melodious chorus, she sings it as it has not often been sung before. There is a stage full of dancing vocalists who, by the magic of Mr. Anderson, the director, are at one moment white and the next negro. Everybody grows feverish over that chemical accomplishment; and it seems enough to establish the revue as a favorite. There is also expert dancing by Miss Ula Sharon and Carl Randell—particularly in a travesty of "The Afternoon of a Faun."

In case you and a play called "Close Harmony" are ever in the same neighborhood, I suggest that you go to see it. This is a sad little carol written by Mrs. Dorothy Parker, who is known as New York's brightest girl, and Elmer Rice, who prefers the gray things to the gold. There are clouds and sunshine, therefore, with Mrs. Parker's brave comedy cheering up Mr. Rice's mood of affliction. A de luxe audience, composed of many of the drama's best and most notable performers, from Miss Pauline Lord to Miss Leonore Hughes, and from Louis Wolheim to "Skeets" Gallagher, liked it at its first performance. So did others less celebrated and less qualified. From this humble wool-sack comes the opinion that "Close Harmony" is a charming play and that it belongs to the gentility of the present season.

It is a comedy of life in the outskirts. Mr. James Spottswood as a henpecked suburbanite meets Miss Wanda Lyon as a yearning ex-chorus girl, neglected by her dissipated husband. They get together in a crowded hour. In happier days he has played the mandolin and she the piano. After they have accompanied one another in "The Blue Danube" and "The Sunshine of Your Eyes," they kiss and decide to elope. Of course, they don't—but as the play ends both of them had their Big Moment.

The last time I saw Miss Lyon play was in Montebaur, Germany, where, as a patriotic T. M. C. A., she assuaged the miseries of the army of occupation with songs and dances. At that time I decided that she was the world's best actress, and so did many of our dreamy crusaders. The other night, unhampered by any star-sung prejudices, I thought that she did a good thing very well. If Mr. Cowenshield, the editor of "Family Fun," will permit me to amend my list of rainbow players, I shall include Miss Wanda Lyon.

Miss Ruth Chatterton, like Miss Billie Burke, has abandoned art for musical comedy and is now to be observed in "The Magnolia Lady," which is "Come Out of the Kitchen" set to music. As an example of the far-drama the play is pleasing; and Miss Chatterton surprises her admirers by her pretty facility for singing and dancing. She is helped considerably by the flip behavior of Mr. "Skeets" Gallagher, and by the handsome romances of Mr. Ralph Forbes, a good English actor left on this beach by the British war play, "Havoc."

AT THE THEATERS



Pat Rooney
AND Marion Bent
AT ORPHEUM



Rudy Winterer
AT EMPRESS

Ruth Gibbs
AT GAYETY

Song and Dance Added to Famous Melodrama for Empress Players

For more than a quarter of a century, "Way Down East" has been an American stage classic.

This week the Empress Players have adapted the noted success for musical comedy purposes. They have retained the big dramatic punches in the story and the comedy element as well and have added a few musical numbers in keeping with the type of play it is.

Appearing in the cast is Maybelle La Couver as Louise, the village gossip; Bert Evans as the hard-hearted squire; Rudy Winterer as Allen, his son; Helen Burke as the girl who causes all the trouble; Whitey Holman as Bradley, the city man; Olga Brooks as Mable, the niece and Joe Martin as the chore boy.

Among the musical numbers to be introduced is "Springtime," "Dreamland," "Juanita," "Where the Bright Lights Shine," "Smile Awhile," "Roses of Picardy," "Bringing Home the Bacon," and selections by the Empress four. A musical novelty called, "Si Haskin's Band," will be presented by Rudy, Joe, Bert, Whitey and Red.

The finale is a spectacular ensemble called, "Canary Cottage," staged by Joe Marion and Cecile O'Dowd.

"Way Down East," promises to prove the most popular stage attraction the Empress Players have offered during their long engagement in Omaha.

ROYAL ORCHESTRA AGAIN AT RIALTO

Owing to the success of Randall's Royal orchestra during their week's engagement at the Rialto, announcement is made of their engagement for the present week. A complete change of numbers will be made by this Omaha orchestra.

Columbia Burlesque

GAYETY

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Always a Good Show

Harry Hastings

The Show of Dimpled Knees

See the Beautiful Living Fountain

with FRANK X. SILK

WORLD

This Week—Ending Friday
A SIX ACT BILL OF HIGHEST QUALITY
In addition to a great Photoplay, offers you
"Everything in Entertainment"

The Artistic Song, Dance and Musical Spectacle
CAST OF TEN ENTERTAINERS
in their

INTERNATIONAL REVUE

Lavishly Staged—Gorgeously Gowned

WHEELER and POTTER
In the Unique Comedy Success
"Smithie"

MAUREN ENGLIN
Beautiful Singer
Of Phonograph Fame

Geo. & Rae PERRY
Jazzy Banjoists
Organ Solo
"Follow the Swallows"

MANILLA BROTHERS
2 American Chinamen
Arthur Hays
At the Mighty World Organ

HAZEL KENNEDY and MARTIN MORTENSEN
A Story of New York's "Bowery" When It Was America's Most Wicked Street

MARY PHILBIN



'FOOLS HIGHWAY'

This Is Shamrock Week at the Orpheum Theater With Rooney and Bent

This week will be shamrock week at the Orpheum theater, with Pat Rooney and Marion Bent in their new musical comedy, "Shamrock," the most pretentious musical show in vaudeville.

Pat Rooney is the same spirited Irish stepper today as of yore. The singing of his fair partner, Marion Bent, is one of the delightful features of the act. Three dancers, Eva Mascago, Anita Nieto and Celia Marks, are important in the production, and Fat Rooney's Shamrock orchestra, directed by Andy Byrne, adds much to the success of this sparkling playlet.

"Shamrock" is a real musical comedy with a story, entwined with catchy songs, pretty girls and embellished with elaborate scenery and costumes.

Rooney and Bent on their last tour of the Orpheum played "Rings of Smoke." For two seasons they were starred in a musical comedy called "Love Birds." There may be more popular favorites somewhere, but as yet they have not been discovered.

William Fox is featured in a satire entitled "The Story of a Man Who Bought an Automobile." Mr. Fox is the man who bought the car. The

other characters are the man's wife, the salesman and those who always figure in a car owner's life—a lawyer, a traffic cop and a flapper.

Bernard and Townes offer an original singing act. Felix Bernard is a composer of popular music. Two of his best known works are "Dardanella" and "Javanella." Sydney Townes is a well known lyric writer. Mr. Bernard presides at the piano and his partner furnishes the songs.

"Blackface" Eddie Ross is a minstrel. The great national game of baseball is used by Joe Lane and Pearl Harper in their bits of wit.

Two of the cleverest wheelmen in vaudeville are Mortimer MacRae and Gertrude Clegg. Miss Clegg has the distinction of being the champion woman cyclist of the world.

With Countess Modena, celebrated European violinist, and Peggy Stewart, the New York dancing star, the International Revue comprising a company of 10 entertainers headlines the new six-act vaudeville bill at the World this week.

This revue of a spectacular melange of song, instrumental music and dance enhanced by beautiful

Orpheum WEEK STARTING TODAY'S MAT.

ROONEY & BENT
IN THE MUSICAL COMEDY
SHAMROCK

With a Company of 20 including
EVA MASCAGO
PAT ROONEY'S SHAMROCK ORCHESTRA
Andy Byrne, Conducting

Lewis & Gordon Present **WILL FOX** (A Satire) by Edwin Burke
In "The Story of a Man Who Bought an Automobile"

Felix-BERNARD & TOWNES—Sydney
"A Song a Minute"—Felix Bernard is the Composer of "Dardanella" and the New Song Success, "Javanella"

"Blackface" **EDDIE ROSS**
And His African Harp

Joe-LANE & HARPER—Pearl
In a Variety Offering, "Bits of Wit," by Ames and Winthrop

MAC RAE & CLEGG
Present "The Champion Lady Cyclist of the World"

Asop's Fables Topics of the Day Pathe News

stage settings and elaborate costuming.

Hazel Kennedy and Martin Mortensen offer one of the real novelties of the year. Miss Kennedy is a youthful character comedienne presenting much that is laughable in song and dance while Martin is a piano marvel introducing among other things the playing of two pianos at one time.

Bernard Wheeler and Adela Potter are vaudeville laugh producers of reputation and present this season an originality in dialogue and song called, "Smithie," written by Richard Gallagher. As the "scrub lady," Miss Potter has ample opportunity for the creation of fun.

Known in musicland as the "scintillating songstress," Maureen Englin presents a series of popular songs. Miss Englin has made phonograph records for Pathe, Emerson, Genett, Cameo and other companies.

George and Rae Perry are known as the fastest and jazziest team of banjo players in vaudeville. Their musical program is lively and diverting and contains many novelty numbers.

Billed as "Two American Chinamen," the Manila Brothers are acrobatic comedians with a skillful potpourri of gymnastic originalities. "Follow the Swallows Back Home," will be given a de luxe organ presentation by Arthur Hays.

This Week—Ends Friday

NEW EMPRESS
GREATER MUSICAL REVUE

Empress Players present for the first time in musical comedy the celebrated rural stage success—

"WAY DOWN EAST"

All the homely humor; all the big dramatic punches, with the addition of musical numbers in keeping with the play, makes this the record attraction of the season.

2 SMASHING SCREEN FEATURES
George O'Hara and Alberta Vaughn in the Second Exciting Story
"THE GO-GETTERS"
and
WANDA HAWLEY—NIGEL BARRIE
in
"THE DESERT SHEIK"
Actually Filmed in the Sahara

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The TEN COMMANDMENTS
Story by JEANIE MACPHERSON
PRODUCTION OF
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SEE From your chair in the theatre, THE MIRACLE Unbelievable—THE PARTING OF THE RED SEA The Great Flight of the Israelites from Egypt Pharaoh's Army of Chariots in Pursuit Engulfed by Closing Walls of Water Miriam, the Beautiful, Frenzied Prophetess, Leading the Worshippers of the Golden Call in their Oriental Baccanal Human Souls Battered in a Struggle for Wealth and Pleasure Today

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