

Bank Roll Gage

Belasco Measures His Drama on Boxoffice Basis and Wins Point.

By PERCY HAMMOND.

New York, Feb. 21. IT IS said of Mr. Belasco that his losses last year in such worthy pursuits as "The Merchant of Venice" were upward of \$500,000. These, of course, are Broadway figures and are therefore not certified. But it is known that the manager's savings were considerably if not ruinously depleted, and that at three o'clock and 10 he heard snarls of the wolf at his door.

That unhappy condition is now amended, and the hollow cheeks of Mr. Belasco's neediness have become dimpled with prosperity. Abandoning what are called "the better things" he turned his attention to enterprises less haughty. First "The Harem" replenished his vacant coffers and then "Ladies of the Evening." While increasing his fortune these ventures subtracted from his prestige. Accustomed to praise, he found himself an object of curses. One prominent New York journalist referred to him editorially as "a cheap skate on Broadway." Mr. Belasco, though wounded in his feelings, disregarded the epithets as merely one of the disadvantages of thrift. The jingling of the guineas healed the hurt that honor felt.

Few of us are qualified to censure Mr. Belasco in the circumstances. The temptation was great, and shown men, through their contact with theatergoers, become cynical. So I shall refrain from scolding Mr. Belasco. I even suspect that some of the holy ones who scourge him might themselves do as he does in a similar predicament. An odd feature of the campaign against Mr. Belasco is that the New York newspapers which are most indignant at his misbehavior print advertisements of his harmful plays. They share with him the revenues of his shame. From every baleful action that occurs on Mr. Belasco's stages the crusaders get their bit. Again I suspect myself incompetent to sit in a court of denunciation.

Mr. Belasco's newest argosy is "The Dove," a lively circus by Willard Mack, emphasizing the vividness of night life on the Mexican frontier. In it Holbrook Blinn with unerring detail performs as a lecherous caballero, rich beyond the dreams of avarice, and ambitious to possess the person of Dolores (Miss Judith Anderson), a chaste singing girl in the Purple Pigeon cafe.

Opposed to his lustful quest is Johnny Powell, a young and upright Yankee gambler (William Harrigan). Though a craps-shooter, Johnny Powell has a mind above what he calls "the Memphis tennis courts." He is fond of Dolores and is anxious to make her his wife—an aspiration in which she is an accomplice. But Don Jose, the well-caballo, the owner of governments and fertile oil wells, intervenes. Until the final moments of the play he has them in his power.

Few things can thrill my primitive sensibilities more than to see William Harrigan whip out his gun and kill a noisy actor in a role entitled Pancho Gonzales. I envied him the other night his aptitude for cold sarcasm, his ability at eloquent, honest insult and his quickness upon the trigger. "The loud words, the bang! bang! the quivering corpse, the hushed crowds in Brayfield's gaming house and the police filled me with pleasant tremors. I thought I had the fate of other men." For I suspected that Dolores would try to make the ultimate sacrifice for Johnny and would promise to give herself to Don Jose in exchange for her lover's safety. Even when, near the end of the play, they backed Johnny up against a wall and prepared to shoot him I had a dramatic confidence that they would not do so, and that as the curtain fell Love would prove itself, as usual, omnipotent.

The play, as Mr. Blinn described it in his curtain speech, is a return to the old "theater"—romance touched with realism. It is a good show, and Belasco may add its receipts to his income without blushing.

Other violent melodramas of the week are "Cape Smoke" and "Rain," both of which are full of loud exciting noises. "Cape Smoke" depicts some wild episodes taking place on the South African veldt, with native witch-doctors putting the curse on white men and venomous reptiles inserting their fangs into quivering human flesh. Involved in its troubled romance are James Rennie, an ex-chaining oil man from Texas, and Miss Ruth Shepley as a beautiful Englishwoman, to whom, at the end, he became betrothed. You should see Mr. Rennie when, in a crisis, he dashes off a check for a hundred thousand pounds! which falls from London, may best be described by its scenario. The time is today, the place is the Paris of the apaches. Thus—The Bar of the White Coffin... The Rat's lodgings, three weeks later... The baron's study... The apartments of Zelle de Chateau... In the lamp light... A courier... The characters include Alphonse, a waiter, and Mou Mou, Paulette, Marcel and Gaby, habitués of the Parisian underworld.

The knowing ones say that "The Dark Angel" is the work of Guy Bolton, operating under the pseudonym of "H. B. Trevelyan." It is rather an ingenious soldier-story told in an old-fashioned way, with long references to Mah Jong and other obsolete amusements. What it propounds, will a British captain do when, returning blinded from the wars, he is confronted with a problem in romance? Will he ask the woman who has loved him to share his dusk misery or will he pretend to be dead upon the battlefield, as reported, and permit her to marry another, comfortable man? With two such pleasant performers as Mr. Reginald Mason and Miss Patricia Collins imitating the principal roles, it is not easy to forecast the conclusion. The blind soldier renounces his rights to the lady and she marries the other man. Slow, shifting and carefully worded, it is at least pleasantly sad.

In addition to playing leads in Christie comedies, Jimmie Adams is a song writer of considerable popularity in California.

Theaters



Mitzi—in "The Magic Ring" Brandeis.



Ethel Barrymore and Helen Robbins in "Second Mrs. Tanqueray" coming to Brandeis.



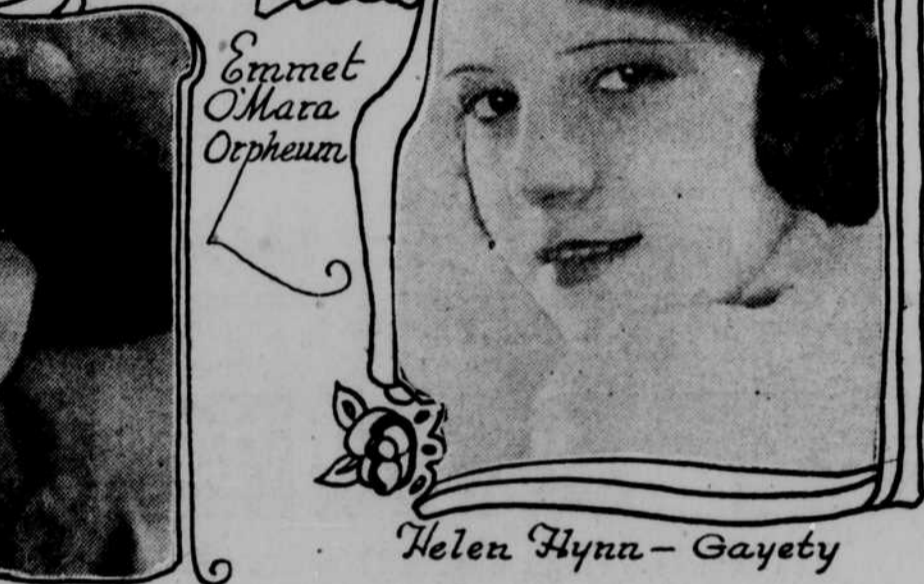
George Lee Hall in "Rain" Brandeis.



Emmet O'Mara in "Orpheum."



Emma Trentini in "Orpheum."



Helen Hyna—Gayety

"Let's Go" Gives Pep and Snap to Gayety This Week

"Let's Go," this week's twice daily attraction at the Gayety theater, is said to be one of the snappiest, funniest and most colorful revues presented this season on the Columbia Wheel. Chief comedy responsibility lies lightly on Manny King, who, when he is not getting roars of laughter from his comedy lines and droll mannerisms, is making his "fiddle" do it for him. Then there are songs by Nan Palon, dances, songs, quips and what-not by Arnette Creighton, Fay Tunes and Helen Flynn—with interludes by one of the most gorgeously costumed choruses Fred Clark ever assembled. Among the vaudeville acts is Walter (Pep) Smith in a song and story. Harry Peterson, robust vocalist, will be present. Today's matinee starts at 3. Tuesday occurs the customary "surprise night," which doesn't mean a thing except a new, long laugh that should make you roll off your seat. Friday will be "Garter night," during which festivities the pretty choristers will distribute a total of \$15 cash to lucky patrons.

Why Burlesque Managers Lose Their Beauty Sleep

"Patience is not only a virtue in whipping a burlesque show into shape—it's almost 99 per cent of the requisite qualifications," says Fred Clark, producer of "Let's Go," now at the Gayety theater. That such a fact is easy to understand, especially when one considers the chorus. Any man who has been in the army can tell you just how difficult it is to teach or learn even the simplest drill movements—even to keep in step while marching. Imagine, then,

OLD MAN JOHNSON'S GAYETY

CLEAN Columbia Twice Daily All Burlesque Ladies Bargain Mat., 2:15 Wk. Days Original Summer Run Success Direct From Columbia Theater, Broadway
---You "Let's Go!" Said It:
With MANNY KING ("So Lonk")
And an Assisting Coterie of Clever Funmakers
SEE THE FUNNY BROADCASTING STATION.
THE MARCH OF THE WOODEN SOLDIERS.
TUES.—"SURPRISE NITE!"
New Out-Of-Staff to Make Laughs
FRI.—"GARTER NITE!"
\$15 Cash Distributed to Lucky Patrons by Pretty Choristers
SEE THE PRETTIES ON THE TWIN RUNBOARDS
Hundreds of 25c & 50c Seats Nightly
Today's Bargain Mat. at 3:00. Best Seats 50c Always a 2 1/2-Hour Big-City Show

trying to get a couple of dozen temperamental young ladies to dance accurately "in step." However, that's what must be done, or your chorus will look like Coxie's army after a hard day's hike. And when it comes to training a group of girls who do the most difficult dance movements in perfect unison, you're up against a proposition that means many tedious hours of drilling. And if you should be unfortunate enough to lose one of the members of the group, you have to start the whole thing over from the beginning."

Orpheum Offers Bill Made Up of Many Forms of Amusement

The U. S. S. Leviathan orchestra will be the headline attraction at the Orpheum theater this week, under personal direction of Nelson Maple, and with the well known tenor, Emmet O'Mara, as featured soloist. Mr. O'Mara has appeared with the Boston Symphony orchestra, the Boston Opera company and the Metropolitan Opera company, as well as on the concert stage. The Leviathan orchestra scored a tremendous success in this theater last year and has been tendered ovations in every city on its return engagement this season.

Event Extraordinary!

FIRST TIME IN HISTORY
Meet Them Dance With Them
Personal Appearance of
12--Movie Stars--12
Cosmic Production Corp.
Presents
Phyllis Haver
Wanda Hawley
Cullen Landis
Helen Holmes
Carl Miller
Ena Gregory
Joe Murphy
Bryant Washburn
Anna Mae Wong
Kathryn McGuire
Ruth Stonehouse
Jack Daugherty
Harry Tighe
March 2nd Shrine Movie Ball and Revue Tickets \$2.00
Revue 8:30 to 9 P. M.
Informal Dance 9 to 12 P. M.
Muni - Auditorium

Mitzi in "The Magic Ring" at Brandeis Two Days

The American stage offers less than a dozen popular feminine musical comedies at the present time. And of this few, no better liked member can be found than the inimitable little Mitzi. The announcement of her forthcoming engagement in this city at the Brandeis for three performances on Tuesday and Wednesday next in "The Magic Ring," her latest musical play success, is therefore an event. "The Magic Ring" best described as a fantastic comedy with music, is said to be the most pleasing starring vehicle roughish Mitzi has ever had to display her rare entertaining talents. It is by Zelda Sears and Harold Levey, and it is declared to even excel that excellent work. Mitzi and her splendid company come to this city closely following their triumphant engagements in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago. The cast of the metropolitan variety with Boyd Marshall, Sidney Greenstreet, Jeanette MacDonald, Carolyn West, and others prominently displayed.

Last Time Round Come Durable Comies, McIntyre and Heath

James McIntyre and Tom Heath have decided that it is about time to bid farewell to the scenes with which they have been so closely associated for so long a time. So this famous blackface team is making its final tour of vaudeville, and for their last appearance at the Orpheum theater next week they will give "The Man From Montana," one of the better known of their many comedy skits.

Orpheum Week Starting Today's Mat.

UNITED STATES SHIPPING BOARD PRESENTS THE
U.S.S. LEVIATHAN ORCHESTRA
WITH PIANIST DIRECTOR NELSON MAPLE and EMMETT O'MARA tenor
HOWARD KYLE In "THE HOUSE AT THE CROSSROADS"
GORDON & KNOWLTON In "A RECITAL CLASSIQUE"
KLEIN BROS. In "JEST MOMENTS"
HELLER & RILEY ALTHEA LUCAS & CO.
THE CELEBRATED LITTLE PRIMA DONNA
MME. EMMA TRENTINI
Star of "The Firefly," "Naughty Marietta," "The Peasant Girl"
and ERIC ZARDO The Distinguished Concert Pianist
ESOP'S FAIRIES TOPIUS OF THE DAY PATHE NEWS

Ethel Barrymore in Pinero Play Coming to Brandeis

The appearance of Ethel Barrymore at the Brandeis theater on March 6 and 7, when Arthur Hopkins presents this popular actress in Sir Arthur Pinero's celebrated play, "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray" will arouse the keenest interest. The local visit of Miss Barrymore follows almost immediately this star's highly successful performances of the Pinero play at the Cort theater, New York, and at the Blackstone theater, Chicago.

Miss Barrymore combines a genius for light comedy with a power for expressing emotion which is very rare, and in her portrayal of Paula Tanqueray she is required to display all those brilliant gifts which have previously been revealed in a series of widely varying and compelling characterizations. Paula has been enacted in America by several famous actresses, notably Mrs. Pat Campbell, Olga Nethersole, Mrs. Madge Kendall, and it will be most interesting to watch Miss Barrymore's performance in this role, for she is without doubt the leading American actress of today.

London String Quartet Next on List of the Tuesday Musical Club

"The London string quartet has brought ensemble playing to about the highest imaginable point, certainly by the best on the concert stage today," wrote the critic of the Philadelphia Public Ledger on the occasion of the last visit of this organization to Philadelphia. The London string quartet, will appear on here on Thursday evening, February 26, at the Brandeis theater under the auspices of the Tuesday Musical Club. The critic goes on to say: "There is a sincerity about their playing which is unique and the sole aim of the four artists is to give the best interpretation possible, without any attention whatever to personal achievement, although this very thing demands playing of the highest type. It is always more difficult to submerge a personality than to magnify it."

"Rain" Will Precal Tonight in Extra Show at Brandeis

With an extra and final performance this evening, "Rain" will end its stay at the Brandeis theater. Omaha has greeted this remarkable drama with large attendance and it is safe to say that the play has lived up to all expectations that its unusual reputation had created.

Bring the Family to THE TIFFIN

Omaha's Refined Dining Room
WELLINGTON HOTEL
1819 Farnam
SPECIAL SUNDAY DINNER
12 Noon to 8 o'Clock
PRICE 75c
Phone AT lantic 1601 for Reservation

BRANDEIS THEATRE

TONIGHT - 8:25

Omaha Joins
New York in
Praise of
RAIN
Last Performance
T-o-n-i-g-h-t

GOOD SEATS AVAILABLE AT 50c, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00 and \$2.50

MITZI

In Her Most Triumphant of All Musical Comedies
"THE MAGIC RING"
Guaranteed Original New York Cast and Chorus

The arrival of the only, inimitable Mitzi in a new musical production is more than a mere theatrical occurrence, it is a joyous, momentous occasion. Since this small star who sings, acts and dances with equal brilliance, first endeared herself to playgoers in "Sari," she has season by season increased her following, until today she occupies a unique position on the American musical stage. There is only one Mitzi!

"The Magic Ring" is the fantastic title of the new production in which piquant Miss Mitzi will be sponsored by the manager who "discovered" her and has ever since guided her stage career, Mr. Henry W. Savage. The play is described by its author, Miss Zella Sears, as a "fantastic comedy-with-music"—the music for the occasion having been composed by Harold Levey. Miss Sears and Mr. Levey acted as author and composer for Mitzi in her last play, "Lady Billy," and they more recently conquered Broadway by the sparkling success of "The Clinging Vine."

In these scenes a motley group of picturesque personalities—a shopkeeper, his wife, a young composer, a theatrical manager, a career-seeking debutante, with her modern mamma and their coteries—are vivified by the presence of Mitzi in the role of Polly Church, an organ-grinder. Polly's feet are firmly planted in the New York streets, but insidiously golden head lies hopes, adventures, dreams.

The cast surrounding Mitzi in every instance reflects Henry W. Savage's discriminating and fastidious judgment. The ensemble includes singing beauties, a girls' instrumental sextette, a group of remarkable boy singers, and bevy of lively dancing girls and boys.

Every detail of the scenic production, the costumes, staging and orchestral effects, has been perfected under Mr. Savage's personal supervision.

Show Begins Promptly
Nights, 8:15. Matinee, 2:15
No One Will Be Seated During the Prologue

PRICES: Nights, 50c, \$1, \$1.50, \$2, \$2.50 and \$3 Plus Tax
Matinee 50c to \$2.50 Tax
NOTE—2d balcony at night: First 3 rows \$1.00, 3 to 12 rows 50c

Thursday Night, Feb. 26 at 8:15 O'Clock
The Tuesday Musical Club Presents
The London String Quartet

James Levey, 1st violin; Thomas W. Petre, 2d violin;
H. Waldo Warner, viola; C. Warwick-Evans, cello.
Public Sale Tomorrow, 10 A. M.—Tickets, 50c, \$1, \$2 and \$2.50

Two Days: **FRIDAY and SATURDAY, MARCH 6-7**
Only: Matinee Saturday
The Season's Supreme Event
Arthur Hopkins Presents

Ethel Barrymore

In Pinero's Masterpiece
"The Second Mrs. Tanqueray"

MAIL ORDERS NOW
Prices: Evenings—\$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50 and \$3.00; Saturday Matinee—50c, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00 and \$2.50. Seats on sale Monday, March 2.

3 DAYS, March 1-2-3

WAGENHALS AND KEMPER PRESENT
The Biggest, Most Overwhelming Dramatic Hit in History of Stage
"THE BAT"
By Mary Roberts Rinehart and Avery Hopwood
NIGHTS—50c to \$2.00. Popular MATINEE TUESDAY, 50c to \$1.00
When Ordering by Mail Add 10 Per Cent for War Tax