

Best Pictures of Week Are Former Stage Hits

"The Hottentot," "Enter Madame" and "The Sin Flood" All Present Features of Unusual Interest in Construction and Plot. They Will Be at Omaha Theaters This Week.

At least three of the photoplays in Omaha this week get away from the regular cut-and-dried brand, they are "The Hottentot" at the Rialto, "Enter Madame" at the Empress and "The Sin Flood" at the Sun. And curiously enough all three are screen versions of successful plays.

For two years Willie Collier in "The Hottentot" kept his audiences laughing, and the play is strengthened in the movies, because the race track scene can be actually portrayed. "Enter Madame," written and acted by Gilda Varese, is an even more recent stage hit, having run over a year in New York and months in Chicago. Arthur Hopkins produced the "DeLuge," a powerful drama, in 1917, and now it has come to the screen under the title "The Sin Flood."

All three can boast of unusual plot and unexpected situations. "The Sin Flood" is the only really serious one of the three.

Hottentot at Rialto.

It took five men to handle "The Hottentot," the beautiful, thoroughbred which plays the title role in Thomas H. Ince's comedy drama at the Rialto this week. The picture tells the story of Sam Harrington, a daring yachtsman but afraid of horses, who gets in deep waters after he accidentally rescues a girl in a runaway accident and who finally has to ride in a dangerous steeplechase or admit himself a coward to "Feggy," with whom he has fallen in love. The horse which he rides has numerous casualties to its credit, but "Sam" manages to ride him to victory in a thrilling race.

The horse which plays the part of "The Hottentot" took its role so seriously that MacLean was thrown several times before the race scenes were completed, while one groom was kicked 20 times and claimed that he resembled a patchwork quilt more than a human being. The race is a dramatic climax which comes after hilarious comedy has been caused by the absurd situations in which the sea-going yachtsman gets himself. Douglas MacLean plays the part of Sam and Madge Bellamy is the Peggy.

"Enter Madame" at Empress.

In a screen version of "Enter Madame," the stage success Clara Kimball Young will next appear in at the Empress all week. A fittingly elaborate production has been given this adaptation of the play by Gilda Varese and Dolly Byrne, it is understood. The story concerns that part of the life of Liso Della Robbia, a grand opera star, which follows her discovery that her husband, whom she loves for all her neglect of him imposed by her career, is desirous of divorcing her. Elliott Dexter will be seen as the husband and Louise Dresser as the other corner of the triangle. The play abounds in clever situations, and madame's temperament keeps things humming.

"The Sin Flood" at Sun.

Adversity has been used to point a moral and adorn a tale in "The Sin Flood," coming to the Sun this week. In this excellent adaptation of the Swedish play by Henning Berger, the 11 characters are made to reveal their ugliest traits; and then, under the spell of an imposing doom, the evil in their hearts disappears. On this common ground, all the characters unite in a universal brotherhood. Then it is discovered that the death which threatened them is an illusion. Gradually, they return to their normal selfishness—all but three, who have learned the lesson of humanity and go forth again into the world with a new understanding. Helene Chadwick, Richard Dix and James Kirkwood are members of a strong cast.

"Young Rajah" at Strand.

It seems a far cry from impersonating the avatar, or descendant of some racial deity, to participating in a Harvard boat race—but such is the transition required of Rodolph Valentino, star of "The Young Rajah," which will be on view at the Strand this week. In vision scenes he is presented as Krishna and Arjuna, in the highly decorative and fanciful attire of those characters of ancient Hindu literature, while in the main story he is a popular young university man, an athlete and student. In reality he is a rajah who for certain reasons is left with farming people in America to be raised and educated. The story embodies a delightful romance and Wanda Hawley interprets the feminine role. The idea of the plot was taken from the book "Amos Judd."

World Screens "Pawnd."

Melodrama prevails at the world this week in "Pawnd." A young American temporarily stranded in the South Sea Isles, makes a bargain with the wealthy proprietor of a string of gambling casinos throughout the world to conduct a secret investigation for him. He leaves the orient after an exciting fight and lands in New York to fulfill his mission. There he encounters a beautiful young girl, daughter of an old pawn broker, whose trade is helped by the gambling casinos. He falls in love with the girl, and she with him. The girl is being annoyed by a young physician, a drug addict, who wants to marry her and immediately begins plotting against the man for whom the girl is showing a fondness. The story ends with the spectacular defeat of the drug addict, who wants to marry her after "the young couple."

Northern Drama at Moon. "The Man From Hell's River" opened at the Moon yesterday for a four-day run. Eva Novak and Wallace Beery are the leading members of the cast.

It is adapted from Mr. Curwood's novel, "The God of Her People." It has its locale in Northwest Canada and revolves around the self-sacrifice of a girl to spare her father, and the romance between her and a Mountie. The third conspicuous highlight is the introduction of the wolf-dog, Rin Tin.

Attractions of the Week

Rialto—"The Hottentot."
Sun—"The Sin Flood."
Strand—"The Young Rajah."
Empress—"Enter Madame."
Moon—"The Man from Hell's River."
Wednesday—"Wolf Law."
World—"Pawnd."

the huskie who acts as pilot of the officer's dog team. This canine proves to the satisfaction of all how devotion and kindness can encourage a lasting friendship which stops at nothing to save a life.

Soap Bubble Ball Baffles Director—But Not Long

When Barry Pain wrote "The Octave of Claudius," the story from which "A Blind Bargain" was made, he never thought that it could be cleaned up the way the producer did the job. It all happened like this: Barry Pain thought out a unique kind of ball, something that had never been seen in a book or a magazine before. Now the movies have represented all kinds of costume balls, jazz included, but they struck a snag—temporarily—when they learned all the fancy details Barry Pain had put into his own private little ball.

The floor in the center of the ball room in which the dancers were to appear was cut out, and in place of a hardwood floor appeared a zinc square with hundreds of air holes in it. This zinc flooring was really the roof of a huge gas tank beneath the stage. On top of the zinc and slingers smeared a few tons of soap and water. This was prepared in huge vats from several barrels of washing soap. The next step was to harness a gas engine to the tank and blow air through the soapy mixture spread over the zinc, air cooled dance floor. Result: Thousands of iridescent soap bubbles bouncing about in the air. All about the edge of the zinc floor mountains of soap suds were banked. Here's the how of it: When everything was ready the director called: "Bring on the fairies" and on they came. They rose out of the banks of suds, high-kicked, smiled, pretended to enjoy earning their salaries. It was the first time fairies had ever danced amid flying soap bubbles for the delight of screen audiences.

Suburban Programs

Hamilton—"The Face Between."
Victoria—"Forever."
Grand—"A Woman's Side."

Photoplay at 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30 and 10 P. M.

11 to 11 CONTINUOUS SHOWS IN ROTATION 11 to 11 We wish you a Bright and Prosperous New Year and offer a vividly beautiful play of love and life in the theater, with Clara Kimball Young in the delightful role of an Italian opera star. 4 DAYS ONLY—STARTING TODAY



"Poor Gerald"—

sighed the prima donna, thinking of her husband—"he works so hard."

At that moment he was working hard for a divorce.

Clara Kimball Young in Enter Madame A HARRY GARSON PRODUCTION From the New York stage hit by Gilda Varese and Dolly Byrne



Laugh Lines From the Picture World The prevailing notion that motion picture companies fairly exude wealth and are ready to throw it away evidently was belied by one Havana barber. A dressing room was wanted for Richard Barthelme while doing a street scene in "The Bright Shawl." The property man went up to a top-sorial artist who prided himself on his knowledge of English which he boasted he had acquired in the United States, and asked permission to use a back room for the young star. "Oh, yes," smiled the barber, "Be glad to let him have the room." "We will pay for it," said the property man. "We will only want it about an hour. How much do you want?" "Not much," nonchalantly replied the barber, "Fifty dollars."

Bull Montana rejoiced when he learned that Metro, for whom he appears in comedies produced by Hunt Stromberg, had acquired the distributing rights to the marvelous Technicolor process for filming in natural colors, which created a sensation upon its first exhibition, in the photoplay, "The Toll of the Sea."

Malcolm McGregor, one of Viola Dana's three leading men in her newest picture, "Noise in Newboro," tells a mean yarn. "A miserly gentleman woke up one morning," related Mr. McGregor, "and discovered his wife dead. So he went into the hall and leaning over the railing above the stairs, called to the cook below. 'Cook just one egg this morning, Mary!'"

MOON COMEDY CHARLES MURRAY In "Faint Heart" FRANK MAYO In "The Wolf Law" Prices: Matinee 10c to 40c, Night 10c to 50c. For Reserved Seat Tickets Phone JA cksou 1416

Began as Family Black Sheep, Finishes as Star Comedian, Stunt Actor

"I was a black sheep in our family," says Victor Moore, comedian, who comes to the Orpheum theater this week in his familiar bit of hokeyum, entitled "Change Your Act, or Back to the Woods."

Victor Moore was playing the same act he is bringing to the Orpheum theater this week, when he was discovered by George M. Cohan and engaged for Cohan's "Forty-Five Minutes From Broadway." He played the principal role, Kid Burns, for many seasons. At the conclusion of that run, Mr. Cohan had another play for Moore called "The Talk of New York," in which the same character predominated. Then he appeared in "Shorty McCabe," "Happiest Time of My Life," "See You Later," and other plays. While appearing in the "Happiest Time" piece, he met Miss Littlefield, a member of the same company, and Moore says that was the happiest time in his life, for she has been Mrs. Moore ever since.

Movies Become Magnet for Big Tourist Hotel

That the drawing power of the movies can be commercialized has just been demonstrated by Mrs. Charles Jeffras, social director for southern California's biggest hotel—the Ambassador.

Motion picture stars have formed the habit of going to the Grove every Tuesday night, which has been a great attraction for the tourists and incidentally a notable source of revenue for the hotel.

Tourneur Seeks Old Ships.

Maurice Tourneur has gone to San Francisco to make the initial production of an ambitious production on "The Isle of Dead Ships," which, with a fleet of vessels, will be filmed in the famous kelp beds off San Juan Capistrano. Tourneur is seeking material for the construction or rehabilitation of vagrant and long idle ships, some of which came around the Horn during the mining days and were abandoned by their crews, drunk with stories of wealth awaiting on land. These ships have been rotting in the tide-water of the great bay and their hulks will provide Mr. Tourneur with suggestions for the manufacture of vessels to film in the Pacific kelp beds which are similar to those of the Sargasso sea, the Atlantic locale of the storm. Such vessels as have not been moved even by the tides of 50 years, but which will stand the transportation, will be towed to their last resting place on the expansive bosom of the Pacific at all the vast tangles of floating kelp to provide reality for the picture.

Theda Bara "Comes Back"

Theda Bara is to star again in "The Easiest Way."

Then come the purchase of screen rights to Eugene Walter's famous play.

Theda Bara "Comes Back"

There was one question left to answer. Who would direct? The man that reached Los Angeles early this morning of the contract signed between Ferdinand Earle, artist, writer and motion picture director, and the younger Selznick answered that. Earle will start production of "The Easiest Way" immediately on completion of the script. He wires that "a splendid cast" is being engaged to support Miss Bara.

TO-DAY and ALL WEEK RIALTO Performances 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00 DIRECTION OF A.H. BLANK New Years Special Tho. H. Ince Presents DOUGLAS MCLEAN MADGE BELLAMY and RAYMOND HATTON in a picture greater than Wm. Colliers roaring success of the stage The HOTTENTOT A First National Attraction The story of a man who conquered fear; of a maid who loved horses—and the man; of a horse who won the greatest steeplechase ever filmed. You'll laugh until you cry, You'll sit on the edge of your seat! And on the same program—WILL ROGERS in The Ropin Fool He could rope a centipede by his legs and leave out the middle one A COMEDY, NOVELTY, DE LUXE!!! MIDNIGHT SHOW TONIGHT! STARTS AT 11 O'CLOCK COMPLETE CHANGE OF PROGRAM (This Performance Only) John Emerson-Anita Loos Production "A RED HOT ROMANCE" It's a Comedy Riot—We're Going to Have Fun Noise Makers—Novelty Stunts You Can Come at Nine and See Both Shows at One Price