THEATER
PHOTOPLAY

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

MUSIC
RADIO

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Impending Joys

What Omaha Theaters Offer Patrons This Week Holds Much Attractiveness

AFTER a play develops into an overnight success it is always interesting to learn that it has been turned down by veteran producing managers. "The Cat and the Canary," coming to the Brandeis theater tomorrow, for a return engagement, had such a history and wound up by making a fortune for a little known author, a young producing firm and a new theater in New York city.

The general verdict of the experienced men of the theater, after reading the manuscript of "The Cat and the Canary," was that it was "too strong meat." Finally, the author, John Willard, sent the script to Kilbourn Gordon, Inc., a combination of young and enterprising men who were not handicapped by any fears as to what "the dear public" might not like. They accepted the play at once and produced it in a theater that had not up to that itme housed a winner. "One of those freak successes," said the managers who had rejected the play. "New York may fall for it, but wait till it hits the road."

So Kilbourn Gordon, Inc., organized another company which went to Chicago and stayed there 36 weeks. A third company went south and Mr. Gordon went to London where, in association with Grossmith & Malone, "The Cat and the Canary" was royally received at the Shaftsbury theater. In the meantime T. Daniel Frawley received the rights for the orient and played it all the way from Ceylon to Manila.

This season there are three companies exhibiting "The Cat and the Canary." The Chicago company, which is the one that played here earlier in the season, plays here.

Ed Wynn and Gang Back to Brandeis

Judging by the unusual interest displayed in the special return request engagement of Ed Wynn, "The Perfect Fool" at his new musical, laughing riot coming to the Brandeis theater for the three nights, commencing next Thursday with a specially priced popular matinee on Saturday, Wynn will repeat the successful engagement he played in Omaha a year and a half ago. There is only one Ed Wynn. A. L. Erlanger and Bert C. Whitney are sending back for this return engagement practically the same clever and complete organization seen at the Brandeis upon Wynn's previous visit. It must be remembered that Ed Wynn, himself, wrote the book, music and lyrics of his present vehicle, while Julian Mitchell, that master-hand of stagecraft, produced and carried out, with Wynn's co-operation, the many new, unique and unusual terpsichorean diversions so prominently identified with the tremendous success of "The Perfect Fool."

Besides the star himself, Ed Wynn, the organization includes True Rice, Wynn's right hand bower and spoke in the fun wheel, assisted by Flo Newton, a prima donna new to Omaha in the person of Nydia d'Arnell (by the way, an honest-to-goodness ccuntess in her own rights and name, and which fact the press representative has evidently overlooked), a recent discovery of Wynn's; Arthur F. Burckly, a tenor long identified with Metropolitan musical successes, appearing with "The Perfect Fool" for his first season; John Dale, remarkable dancer; Teddy Roberts, Estelle Penning and Anita Furman, those clever little Meyakos—a trio of cute Japanese children, pleasantly remembered for their versatility; Edna Hamel, petite toe dancer; "That Girl Quartet," Misses Ivey Kirkwood, Harriette Keyes, Jeanette Fielding and Loretta Ferrati; Olive Birmingham, Jane McCurdy, Grace Russell, Arvis Smith, Betty Barclay, Edna Terry, and Wynn's Wynn-ing Wynnsome chorus of charm and beauty, including the "Sixteen Dancing Daisies. Antonio Bafunno will conduct an augmented orchestra.

Orpheum Offers Bill of Many Varied Features

Henry Santrey, with his voluminous baritone voice and surrounded by his miniature symphony orchestra, is the headliner at the Orpheum this week. Since the inception in vaudeville of the band act by Mr. Santrey some years ago, he has developed and perfected this type of presentation until today his organization stands for the highest and most entertaining music-singing combination in vaudeville.

Pert little Anna Seymour, who, with her brother, Harry, offer breezy bits of mirth and melody, will do a snappy after-piece with Mr. Santrey. That the times have changed even for rural drama is demonstrated by Harry J. Conley in his new skit, "Rice and Old Shoes." Mr. Conley portrays a "rube" but not the kind of the 'by gosh' period. He makes his stage appearance on a motorcycle instead of on the hayrack. His many modern twists coupled with his exceedingly bright dialogue puts his skit in the winning class of vaudeville offerings.

The Keno Four, a quartet of Omaha young men, who have appeared before Omaha clubs and at local entertainments on many occasions, will make their debut on this week's Orpheum bill in an especially prepared act consisting of singing, dancing and comedy. The quartet prepared their act with a view of being booked on the Orpheum circuit if their performance pleases.

Danny Duggan is an exhibition dancer and as such has gained world fame. The Wilson Aubrey Trio are comedy wrestlers.

This department's choice for Romeo and Juliet remains as ever, Ben Turpin and Marie Dressler

May McAvoy AT THE STRAND

Anna Seymour AT THE ORPHEUM

Rita Adams AT THE BRANDEIS

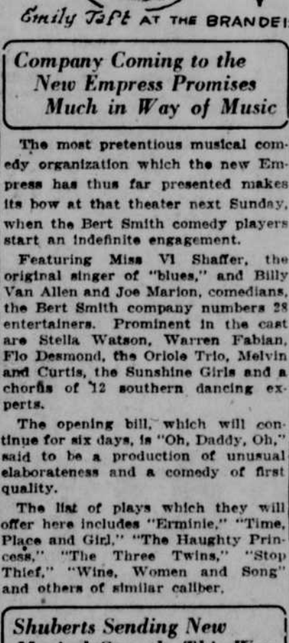
George Hackathorne AND Lloyd Hughes AT THE SUN

ON STAGE AND SCREEN IN OMAHA

Fay Tunis AT THE GAYETY

Earl Young AT THE EMPRESS

Tom Mix AND Gertrude Claire AT THE MOON



Emily Taft AT THE BRANDEIS

Anna Q. Nilsson AT THE RIALTO

Lucille Hannford AT THE WORLD

Jane Mercer AND Jacqueline Godsden AT THE MUSE

Famous Circus Riders Top Bill at World

In circusdom no name commands more attention than that of the Hanneford family. This famous organization of equestrians headlines the new six-act bill at the World this week. George Hanneford is regarded as the world's greatest riding comedian. Artistic and thrilling bareback riding and laughable comedy moments make the family and the audience satisfied to "let George do it."

Evans, Mero and Evans, in "Bits of Mark Twain," impersonate three of the well-known Twain characters, Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn and Billy the Kid. Especially laughable is the bit where one of the trio first learns to smoke.

Dave Walters and Jack Stern offer "The Syncopated Salesman," in which a lot of fun and harmony singing combines. John Burke offers "A Trade of His Own," song and talk with some surprising additions. John Reichen presents his wonder dogs, developed to an unusually high degree of intelligence. Mary Drew and company present a novelty that is replete with out of the ordinary thrills.

Arthur Hays has another song novelty for his usual weekly contribution to the bill.

Collins and Harlan, phonograph stars, and Ruth Mix, daughter of Tom Mix, famous motion picture star, are co-headliners on the bill starting Saturday.

Powell's Closing Week to Give Empress Two Bills

Halton Powell's "The Sins of Hollywood" under the title of "Midnight Rose" is the attraction at the New Empress the first four days of the week beginning this afternoon, the last seven days of the Powell engagement here. In the new vehicle Halton Powell departs from comedy and plays the role of a sinister schemer who seeks to ruin the good name of an innocent young girl. Rita Lawrence, Earl Young, Billy Wyse, Elsie Esmond, Frank West and other members of the company shine in roles that fit them like the proverbial glove. The musical interpolations are snappy and up to the minute. Starting Thursday for the finale of their engagement here the Powell Players will offer a cyclonic comedy, "Oh, by Jingo."

Next Sunday the New Empress introduces the Bert Smith Comedy Players. This organization of 28 entertainers features Vi Shaffer, Flo Desmond, Billy Van Allen, Joe Marion, Stella Watson, Warren Fabian, Melvin and Curtis, the Oriole Trio and a chorus of 12 southern dancers. The opening bill described as a whirlwind of laughter, song and spectacular scenic effects is entitled "Oh Daddy Oh."

Happy Days at the Gayety Promises Much

Hurtig & Seamon's "Happy Days" is at the Gayety theater this week. Five very clever and attractive young women fill the roles of prima donna, soubrete, comedienne, ingenue and French character actress. These are Kitty Glasco, Fay Tunis, Mildred Campbell, Mabel McCloud and Gladys Darling. There is a promise of much comedy in the work of Will H. Ward and Frank (Rags) Murphy. The Four Dancing Demons, colored entertainers, will introduce a special vaudeville feature. There will be a special matinee every day for the benefit of the women patrons. Still another unusual feature is the noted Australian impressionistic rythmic dancer, Kee-Wa-Nu, whose interpretations, while daring and thrilling, are both artistic and beautiful. Today's matinee starts at 3:00

Original Record Makers Booked for World on Bill for Next Week

From almost the inception of the phonograph perfected by Thomas Edison the record-buying public has listened to comedy songs rendered by Collins and Harlan.

This duo were the original singers of such old time numbers as "The Preacher and the Bear," "Bake That Chicken Pie," "Ham and Eggs," "Moonlight in Jungle Land" and other character comedy tunes.

Collins and Harlan are to be seen in person next week at the World theater with their company of phonograph artists. One of the features of their performance is the making of records on the stage which are, in turn, played before the audience. Local singers and musicians wishing to have records made are invited to participate in this portion of Collins and Harlan's program.

She Hasn't Any Freckles of Her Own, but Thinks They Are Just Wonderful

"Freckles are the sign posts to good nature," says Mabel McCloud, the good looking ingenue of "Happy Days" at the Gayety theater, although this charming young lady is not the possessor of any of these little "beauty spots." "They are also the enemy to vanity," contines Miss McCloud. "Just show me the man or woman who is plentifully endowed with the little brown sun spots, and I will show you one who is the soul of good nature. The good natured man or woman loves the sunshine, and remains in it as much as possible. What care they for a little thing like freckles or tan. Nor do they possess any vanity. To them freckles mean nothing and they acquire a batch of them with a smile. On the other hand the vain or sour-tempered person avoids the sun's rays as if they were a pestilence. To them they mean a disfigurement of white skin and a lot of discomfort: Therefore, they seek the seclusion of their homes, and lacking the health-giving sunshine, become soured and pale."

Eltinge and Brown in Black and White Revue

The Julian Eltinge and Tom Brown Black and White Revue for 1924 opens its local three nights' engagement at the Brandeis theater on Sunday, March 16.

The Eltinge and Brown revue is a musical entertainment of modern type, possessing beauty, dancing, tunefulness, mirth and the newest costume creations so essential for successful entertainment. The organization of 60 entertainers contains Julian Eltinge, Tom Brown, "Blackface" Eddie Rose, Theresa Valerio, Adeline Valerio, Babette Fuller, Pauline Loraine, Estelle Winters and others. Plenty of nimble toes will be evident during the performance, as the act, "Dancing Fienos" is composed of 15 young dancers, whose earnest efforts have won them excellent praise from critics throughout the country.

As an additional musical feature, the revue carries a saxophone band of 30 musicians, with the inimitable Tom Brown as leader. This is the largest saxophone band in the world

Company Coming to the New Empress Promises Much in Way of Music

The most pretentious musical comedy organization which the new Empress has thus far presented makes its bow at that theater next Sunday, when the Bert Smith comedy players start an indefinite engagement.

Featuring Miss Vi Shaffer, the original singer of "blues," and Billy Van Allen and Joe Marion, comedians, the Bert Smith company numbers 28 entertainers. Prominent in the cast are Stella Watson, Warren Fabian, Flo Desmond, the Oriole Trio, Melvin and Curtis, the Sunshine Girls and a chorus of 12 southern dancing experts.

The opening bill, which will continue for six days, is "Oh, Daddy, Oh," said to be a production of unusual elaborateness and a comedy of first quality.

The list of plays which they will offer here includes "Erminie," "Time, Place and Girl," "The Haughty Princess," "The Three Twins," "Stop Thief," "Wine, Women and Song" and others of similar caliber.

Shuberts Sending New Musical Comedy This Way

"Sally, Irene and Mary," the New York Casino theater musical comedy hit by Eddie Dowling, which the Messrs. Shubert will present in this city soon, has been called the peach of last season's musical comedy crop on Broadway. There are two acts and nine scenes in the play, ranging from the opening view of a lower East Side tenement district, to a wedding at the famous little church around the corner.

Movie Titles

So speaks Mr. Robert E. Sherwood in the New York Herald:

"The mental giants whose business it is to concoct box office titles for moving pictures don't seem to be falling down on the job. Although there is a visible improvement in the labels on special feature films, the general run of titles seems to be just as crass, just as vulgar and just as alluring as ever.

"Observe these:

"Week-End Husbands," "Daytime Wives," "Enemies of Children," "Waterfront Wolves," "A Woman Who Sinned," "Discontented Husbands," "Flapper Wives," "Cause for Divorce," "Gambling Wives," "Lend Me Your Husband," "Love's Whirlpool," "The Mansion of Aching Hearts," "One Law for the Woman," "Pagan Passions," "Restless Wives," "Why Men Leave Home," "Youth to Sell," "Damaged Hearts," "Why Get Married," "Flaming Wives," "Is Love for Sale?" "Jealous Husbands," "South Sea Love," "Chastity," "Flaming Passion" and "Borrowed Husbands."

"It seems that the secret of success in the movies is the liberal use of wives, husbands, passion and love. Given these properties, the rest is easy."

Scaramouche Coming to the Sun in Week

"Scaramouche," the big Metro road show production, is returning to Omaha, beginning next Saturday.

This picture earlier this season played a week at the Brandeis theater.

"Scaramouche," is one of Rex Ingram's big productions adapted from the Rafael Sabatini novel of the same name. It is a story of the French revolution, handsomely mounted and staged and played by an all-star cast, including some of the biggest names in filmdom. The three leading characters are played by Alice Terry, Lewis Stone and Ramon Novarro.

The Sun expects to play "Scaramouche" for two weeks.

Norma Talmadge Coming in New Desert Photoplay

Norma Talmadge, always a sure-fire box office attraction, comes to the Strand theater, beginning March 16, in her latest screen offering, "The Song of Love."

"The Song of Love" is reported to be one of the beautiful Norma's most pretentious efforts in the way of settings and costuming. It is a desert story with a strong love theme and gives the star ample opportunity to display her $10,000-a-week talents.

Tom Meighan Feels Hurt When Rudolph's Favored

Seemingly there is as much rivalry between men stars as women stars in the flicker industry. Witness this display of temperament.

A party of exhibitors visited the Famous Players studio on Long Island, saw Rudolph Valentino shooting "Monsieur Beaucaire" and then ate luncheon with Rudy.

Later in the day the exhibitors went to the set where Thomas Meighan was working, whereupon Thomas advised the exhibitors he felt hurt because they hadn't visited him first and hadn't invited him to the luncheon.

Lila Sticks to Hubby.

Lila Lee, rather than be separated from James Kirkwood, her husband, has declined recently a number of offers to return to the stage. One of these came only a few days ago from New York, and an offer to the couple to appear jointly in London upon the stage likewise was turned down because of "other plans," according to husband Jimmie

Laf at Local Lafs; Write One Yourself; Then See It at Sun

Laf at Local Lafs!

Opportunity is here!

The first reel of Local Lafs edited by The Omaha Bee is being shown in conjunction with the regular program at the Sun theater this week.

Every laf is contributed by a reader of The Omaha Bee. Every one is eligible. Just write out your joke on one side of the paper, using not more than 30 words, and send it to the Laf Editor of The Omaha Bee. Fifteen prizes are awarded each week. For the best laf, $5; second, $3; third, $2; then 12 prizes of $1 each.

The prize winning lafs will be shown on he screen at the Sun each week.

Tom Mix and Houdini Are Muse Offerings

Not only will Tom Mix hold out at the Moon this week, but his new picture, "Ladies to Board", will be shown on the Muse screen today.

Monday and Tuesday, however, "Holdane of the Secret Service," with Houdini, the escape artist, featured, will be the attraction.

A Lois Weber production, "A Chapter in Her Life," a story of the home, will be shown Wednesday and Thursday followed on Friday and Saturday by "When Odds Are Even."

Helen Ferguson Has Nose "Twisted," Seeking Beauty

Helen Ferguson, cinema celebrity, who left home in Decatur, Ill., to tread the paths to silver sheet fame and who, a couple of weeks ago, had her nose "recontoured" by Dr. William E. Balsinger at the Hollywood Community hospital in order to make the road to stardom easier going, gave a "nose party" at her home here this week. The guests were the members of "our club," of which Miss Ferguson is a member and whose president is Mary Pickford. The guests voted the new nose a work of art and presented Helen many beautiful handkerchiefs to go with her surgically evolved treasure.

Wedding Bells to Ring Out for Alice Lake and Actor

Wedding bells will ring out in Hollywood soon for Alice Lake and Robert Williams of the New York stage. Miss Lake admits it. The couple met for the first time only a few weeks ago, but Williams' illness gave Cupid an opportunity to do some fast and effective work, with the screen celebrity as nurse. It was pneumonia and now that he's on the road to recovery Williams admits it was love at first sight. As for Miss Lake—"I can't live without him"—that's all she has to admit.

Marguerite in Society.

Marguerite Clark, who several years ago was one of the most popular of all film stars, is now one of the leading social lights of New Orleans. Miss Clark was married to Harry Williams, a wealthy lumber man, and retired from the screen. Her home on St. Charles avenue, New Orleans, is one of the show places of the city.

Just previous to her marriage Miss Clark was offered a film salary of $8,000 a week, which she refused.

Notables Support Hunter at Strand

Supporting Glenn Hunter in his first Paramount picture, "West of the Water Tower," opening today at the Strand theater, are three of the screen's best known character players, Ernest Torrence, George Fawcett and Zasu Pitts. All three have roles in this picture which give them an opportunity for some of the best work of their careers. Mr. Torrence, who in a little more than a yeaf has become one of the most sought after character actors in pictures, has the role of Adrian Plummer, the orthodox minister.

He exudes personality all through his work and no matter whether he is playing the part of a minister or that of a clown, he does not fail to give a masterful performance.

Mr. Fawcett has been doing excellent character work for so many years on the screen that it is no new thing to say that Fawcett has scored again. His work as Charles Chew an infidel in Homer Croy's dramatic novel, is no exception to the superb technique he always shows.

Zasu Pitts, sometimes called "the girl with the sad face," but always able to get a laugh, has the thankless role of Dessie Arnhalt in the picture—thankless because in the end she is let out in the cold and does not win the man she loves. She almost makes the grade, but the scenario writers always fix it so Miss Pitts gets a chance to look sad.

Other players in support of Mr Hunter in this production who are entitled to credit for excellent portrayals are May McAvoy, featured, Charles Abbe, Anne Schaefer, Riley Hatch, Joe Burke, Edward Elkus, Allen Baker, Jack Terry, Gladys Feldman and Alice Mann.

Smart London Cafe Is Shown in World Film

Grace Darmond plays poker.

Decelys Perdue pounds a typewriter.

Katharine Lewis eats candy.

It's all in "Daytime Wives," at the World this week.

Incidentally, the smartest night cafe in the world, the glittering Gatti's of London, has been flawlessly reproduced as a part of this picture.

There are three separate and distinct romances in "Daytime Wives," each just a little different than the other.

The picture is described as a soul-searching document of human emotions.

Tom Mix at Moon With Laughs, Ladies, Thrills

And who should be back at the Moon this week but Tom Mix, not to mention "Tony," the horse which is almost as much of a drawing card as Tom himself.

"Ladies to Board" is the name of the picture.

The picture is a comedy and reported to be full of laughs. But needless to say, with Mix on hand, it also has plenty of thrills and exciting situations.

And—would you believe it?—the picture also reveals a number of very beautiful coryphees costumed by a gentleman with Ziegfeldian inclinations.

Oh, yes, the story! Well, Tom inherits an old ladies' boarding house. But why spoil it by telling the plot. Enough to say it's a regular Mix picture.

The Universal Film company is undecided as to whether or not it will produce "Damned," a novel by Ethel M. Dorrance.

Mrs. Dorrance insists the book is all right from a moral standpoint even if the publishers did equip it with a red cover.

Movies Tell Stories Now

The purists may hoot and shout their derision, but the fact remains that a renascence is under way in the industry of flickering lights and shadows.

Perhaps it's Will Hays, perhaps it's the renewed energy and artistry of the producers and directors, perhaps it's neither one of these, but unquestionably, the last few months has brought about improvements in the quality of motion pictures distributed.

The photodrama of today is an effort to tell a story and tell it well and in any interesting fashion. No longer do the directors devote their attention exclusively to the exploitation of the physical attractions of the star. The script is the thing.

Another point—and this you can readily see in the number of all-star casts—is that the director selects the type of actor best suited to the role instead of making the role fit the actor.

There may be lots of things wrong with the movies, but at least they are becoming more intelligent.

Housewife Wrote Film Play Showing at Sun

Ethel Styles Middleton was a Pittsburgh housewife. She studied photoplay writing by mail through the Palmer Photoplay corporation.

Then one day she wrote a picture story. The Palmer corporation produced it and now it's running at the Sun theater.

"Judgment of the Storm" is a gripping drama and a scenic triumph, according to reviewers. It seems more the work of a professional scenarist than the wife of a Pittsburgh factory worker.

A number of well known figures are in the cast, including Lloyd Hughes, Lucille Rickson, Myrtle Stedman, Philo McCullough and Casson Ferguson. Del Andrews directed.

Another feature of the Sun program this week is a two-reel Valentino picture, "A Society Sensation." This is a revival of a five-reel picture taken a number of years ago, and cut down to two reels. Valentino at that time was just a "leading man." The picture shows him before he became famous.

Rex Beach Author of "Flowing Gold"

Rex Beach, whose novels of the rugged outdoors are eagerly read by millions, due to the virile creations of his fertile brain, is the author of "Flowing Gold," a First National picture, produced by Richard Walton Tully, which opened a week's engagement at the Rialto theater today. Directed by Joe De Grasse, it is enacted by Milton Sills, Anna Q. Nilsson, Alice Calhoun, Josephine Crowell, Charles Sellon, Bert Woodruff, Cissy Fitzgerald and John Roche.

"Flowing Gold" is the phrase the author has coined for oil, by means of which thousands of persons have become millionaires. The scenes are laid in the oil country against a background of hundreds of derricks.

Beach has written many stories of stirring adventure, but none with more action and suspense than "Flowing Gold," in the estimation of unbiased critics. Among the thrilling episodes in the picture are the burning of an oil well, a cloudburst, which spreads the burning liquid over the countryside, destroying all property in its path, and several breath-taking fights among the heroic characters in the story. And there is a romance, with Milton Sills and Anna Q. Nilsson as the lovers.

Big City, Back Woods, Take Pick at Empress

A story of the Great White Way—then a story of the Maine woods. That's the program at the Empress this week.

Beginning today for four days, the Empress screen will offer "Just Off Broadway." Beginning Thursday for three days the film at this theater will be "The Love Bandit."

The story of "Just Off Broadway" unfolds a story of the underworld of Broadway and tells of counterfeiting, the secret service and love. John Gilbert is the star, supposed by Marian Nixon. Frederick and Fanny Hatton wrote it and William Fox is the producer.

The romance of "The Love Bandit" begins with the rescue of a pretty girl and ends in a free-for-all fight. It's a thriller of the out of doors and the cast includes Doris Kenyon, Victor Sutherland and Cecil Spooner with Charles E. Blaney directing.