

Orson Welles in "Jane Eyre"



One of the most versatile and talented of present-day artists, Orson Welles has made great contributions to the advancement of the Negro theatre.

NEW YORK COLORED ASSOCIATES STILL HAVE FAITH IN WELLES' ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT ALL NEGRO THEATRE

Orson Welles' former Negro associates in the New York theatre are still confident that some day he will keep an oft-made promise to lay aside all else for a time and return to New York to aid in the establishment of a permanent Negro theatre.

REAL DISCOVERY FOR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

Dangerous High Blood Pressure (Essential Hypertension) is usually marked by distressing symptoms such as dizziness, throbbing headaches, sleeplessness and nervousness. If disregarded, this may lead to heart trouble, stroke, paralysis, hardening of the arteries or kidney trouble.

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THE BOOK OF THE YEAR GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

THE WORLD'S GREATEST SCIENTIST—\$3.50 POSTPAID. SEND FOR FREE PRICE LIST OF BOOKS OF, AND ABOUT BY BLACK PEOPLE.

ONE OF THE GREATEST BLOOD-IRON TONICS YOU CAN BUY

To Help Build Up Red Blood To Give More Strength For Women Who Lack Precious Iron! You women and girls who suffer from simple anemia or who lose so much during monthly periods that you feel tired, weak, "dragged out"—due to low blood-iron—start at once—try Lydia Pinkham's Tablets.

an adaptation of the script, suitable for his purposes. In the beginning it was his idea to have the late Rose McClendon, great Negro actress, as its star, but unfortunately she died before the production became a reality.

But when Welles joined the Federal Theatre Project in 1935, he had already completed his adaptation of the play and was ready to place it into production. His adaptation of "Macbeth" had no Negro idioms, unless one excepts the fact that the scene of Shakespeare's tragedy was changed from Scotland moors, the locale of "Jane Eyre" to Haiti's jungles during the early 19th century reign of the great Negro soldier-emperor, Christophe. The only real change in the play, however, was Welles' creation of a new part, that of the Witch Doctor, Hecate, which was simply done by giving him the best of the Witches' speeches.

While there were some of Welles' theatre associates who doubted that he would ever be able to do a successful all Negro production of "Macbeth," he never lost faith in his own talent and ideas or in the ability of the actors he had chosen to portray the roles. This was not strange, since, he believed in the beginning that Rose McClendon was not only a great Negro actress but that she was one of the world's greatest stage actresses, and it was because of this he felt she would have been just the right actress for the role of Lady Macbeth.

When the casting of "Macbeth" was completed, Welles began working individually with each of the principal actors. There were long nightly sessions with Edna Thomas (Lady Macbeth) and Jack Carter (Macbeth) in his Greenwich Village apartment. When the entire company was finally brought together, the Welles temperament could not stand the noises in the theatre during the day, so the rehearsals began at midnight and continued until early morning hours.

Those early morning rehearsals would probably live long in the memories of all those associated with the Federal Theatre production of "Macbeth." After long hours of rehearsing under the terrific pressure of the theatre, there would be a pause for a few moments relaxation, at which time sandwiches and coffee...and frequently beer...would be provided for the company. All the refreshments were usually provided by Welles, it was one of his friendly and generous gestures which endeared him to the company, since at that time his funds were almost as meagre as theirs. Those were the days, which probably seem far away to him now, when he had only the income from a 15-minute daily radio stint and his Federal Theatre job. So to buy food for about 100 actors and other workers in the theatre almost every night put an awful dent in his small income.

The opening night of "Macbeth" probably began the Welles tradition of doing things in the showbiz manner possible. He saw to it that it was done with all of the necessary fan-fare and glitter. Certainly Harlem had never before seen anything like it. There were tremendous searchlights playing on the marquee and entrance of the theatre, newsreel sound trucks and a bejeweled, ermine and top-hatted audience that was as smart as any seen at a Gilbert Miller opening. Forty-cent tickets, this was the top price then for a Federal Theatre show) were being sold by sidewalk speculators for as much as five dollars, and the crowds around the Lafayette Theatre were so great that traffic was detoured around it for three or four blocks away.

All of which went to show what the Welles imagination and genius could stir up the first time he had a chance to do something on his own. Since then he has gone on to the creation of many other far more exciting things...his modern dress "Julius Caesar" with the Mercury Theatre on Broadway; a Mercury Theatre radio program about some mythical Martians... adapted from H. G. Wells' story, "War of the Worlds"...which almost created a panic throughout the country; his motion picture debut with the sensational "Citizen Kane," a magic show full of the tricks performed by "The Magnificent Orson...Alive!" for service men in Hollywood, and the powerful part of Rochester in "Jane Eyre."

It is doubtful that Welles' more recent associates, in and out of the theatre, know that he once played the role of Macbeth or that he played it with the above mentioned all-Negro Federal Theatre company. This happened in Indianapolis, Indiana, during the summer of 1936, where Welles had been sent by the administrative officials of the Federal Theatre Project to settle a series of inter-company quarrels which were about to disrupt the "Macbeth" company's highly successful tour.

Arriving secretly at the theatre in Indianapolis, Welles informed only a few of the leading players, the company manager and the stage managers of his presence. After a short conference concerning the quarrels which had been going on within the company, he told them that for the sake of the company's morale he had decided to play the role of Macbeth that evening. Immediately the question of finding suitable costumes for him came up. Maurice Ellis, who was playing Macbeth during the tour, is unusually tall and definitely on the lean side, so there was no possible chance of Welles ever getting into his tight-fitting velvet pants. After scurrying around a bit, an extra pair of Hecate's (the Witch Doctor's) green tights, one of his large capes and one of Macbeth's blousy shirts were the only items found available. Had it not been for the elasticity of the material of which Hecate's tights were made, it is doubtful that Welles would ever have gotten into them.

Without any announcement to the audience concerning the change in the play's performance, Welles walked onto the stage. Even the actors and dancers in the opening vitches' scene were somewhat startled at first, but from then on every player in the company gave an inspired performance. As for Welles, his magnificent performance of Macbeth in that Indianapolis theatre on a hot August night, was a smash event.

The WAITERS' COLUMN By H. W. Smith WE. 6458

The Hotel Regis and the waiters of the White Horse Inn crew are tops at all times with a very pleasant smile trying to please and Mr. Pierson and Mr. Branch serving at all times.

The waiters at the Hill Hotel, Mr. Gip Gordon and Mr. John Phillips and Mr. Stevens are real service men at all times.

Brother John Evans is the top man at the Rome Hotel and is a very quick stepper.

The NAACP is very much in need of everyone to take out a membership as we all should be very good spokesmen in the wheel.

The RR boys are on the up and go on service on wheels. Mr. Roy McCallister, Mr. Luther Johnson, Mr. Linwood Hall and all of the boys are on the job.

Mr. Jones formerly of the Athletic Club is doing the honors with the other boys at the Blackstone Hotel.

The Fontenelle waiters are very much out in front on fine service.

Mr. Hill and Mr. Geo. Thomas the two streamlined room servicers are doing the job in a very fine manner.

The Omaha Club waiters with Capt. Earl Jones and Mr. Frank Buford are in the front line on service.

THE WEEK

John L. Lewis was asked by the WLB to call miners back to work. Jek Fadden, 8, of 1518 South 27th Street, struck by a dairy truck late Friday afternoon, died on the way to a hospital.

Wendell L. Wilkie lists his policy stand dedicated to removal of the administration.

Jack Grunde a Brooklyn, N. Y. grocer offers to turn the business of his store over to the OPA.

Lend Lease Aid uses to be checked by U. S. Congress beginning Nov. 1.

Bert C. Bertram told the national railroad conference the nation is in desperate need of scrap iron and steel.

Read the OMAHA GUIDE for all the news.

The Nebraska Baptist Convention declared opposition to discriminations against Negro service men and women who are unable to secure adequate food and lodging.

Mr. James Richardson entertains some friends in a northside business place.

Supreme Justice Black surprised other members by coming in the court without his robe.

Sgt. Joe Louis makes many friends by visiting in government hospitals.

District Court Justice F. Dickson Letts of Washington, DC, ties up funds of a building laborer and hod carriers union in the capital city.

A. B. Oliver victor Colorado miner burned to death in his cabin.

Eleanor G. Batts and Frank D. Smith found guilty in Chicago of sending gold to Germany.

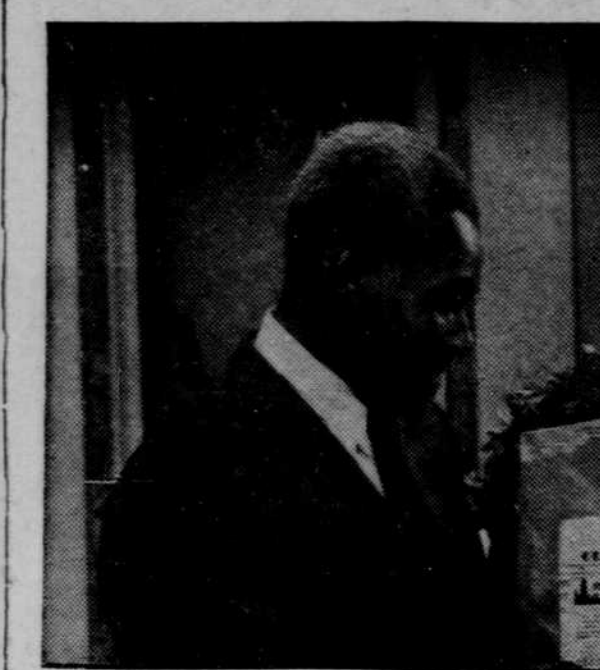
Capt. Grooms entertains some friends in a northside business house.

The Lake street shoe repair shop is being dressed up and decorated.

Many people taken time out to be on North 24th St. Sunday Oct. 17th.

Attorney John Adams Sr., converses with a friend on a 24th and Kansas street car.

REX INGRAM IN UNIVERSAL'S



The hilarious results of a secret marriage are said to be revealed with extraordinary effect in Universal's "Fired Wife."

The new comedy-drama, starring Robert Paige and Louise Allbritton, is announced as one of the most mirthful and entertaining pictures in the current array of fun films.

Diana Barrymore and Walter Abel have leading featured roles.

Michael Fessier and Ernest Pa...

on Saturday, Oct. 16.

Dorothy Baker of Philadelphia Pa., died in a hospital from an overdose of sleeping powders.

Buckner the medicine man on North 24th St., conversing with a beautiful lady.

Mr. Kennedy the silent man on the go in the north end.

Mrs. L. V. Gray on the street, looking after business and at home attending to the regular routine.

H. W. Smith receives a copy of the Camp Ellis, Ill. news from his grandson.

Dr. Lennox very much on the job looking after the sick and also taking very good care of his office practice.

Rev. C. C. Reynolds of Clair Chapel and his choir sponsored a very lovely service at the Metropolitan Community Church on Sunday afternoon October 17th.

The following persons attended morning service at Clair Chapel Sunday, October 17th.

Mrs. Christine Brown and three daughters of New Albany, Miss. Sgt. Mett W. Gatewood, Ira Bolden of Ft. Crook, Nebr.

A complimentary fellowship fare well service given in honor of Rev. Father Stams of St. Phillips Episcopal Church and Rev. Story former pastor of Clevelands Temple will be given Sunday afternoon at 3:30 p. m. at Zion Baptist Church.

FLASH! The musician headwaiter has crashed the front page.

This writer was invited to look of the streamlined food cartier designed by the wide awake headwater at the Chamber of Commerce. On say it is a head liner on transportation of food from the kitchen to the dining room and Mr. Simon Harrold the top notcher on working out plans for quick service should be very highly pleased and commended for drawing the plans of such a much needed rapid fire esign in these gloomie days of unrest of business as his earnest effort could not be improved on.

SUGGESTIONS FOR A NEGRO BUSINESS

The thoughtfulness of our group during the times of today... please look into this matter of business...

...think of three years ago, two thirds of our group were jobless and so forth. Now it is the responsibility of everyone to join hands in seeing that every person of our group will have the opportunity to contribute his or her knowledge and skills toward industrial progress and cooperation with one another. There should be enough leadership in both industrial and laboring people to be able to face realistically this problem.

BUY YOUR POULTRY AT THE NEBRASKA PRODUCE 2304-6 NORTH 24th ST. Get the Best in Quality at the NEBRASKA PRODUCE -LOWEST PRICE- Phone WE. 4137

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HERE IS EVIDENCE TO PROVE THAT A LOOSE SCALP, FREE OF DANDRUFF AND HAIR DESTROYING GERMS GROWS LONG-BEAUTIFUL-STRONGER-GLOSSY HAIR.

Hair Looks Longer in 7 Days! IT TAKES JUST SEVEN DAYS TO PROVE WITH M/M, PAULINE LAWSON'S NEW DISCOVERY 3-WAY HAIR AND SCALP REJUVENATOR THAT YOU CAN OVERCOME TIGHT-DRY-ITCHY SCALP, DANDRUFF GERMS AND FALLING HAIR AND WATCH YOUR HAIR GROW.

Mme. Lawson's 3-way Rejuvenator CONSISTING OF 1-DANDRUFF ERADICATOR \$1.00 2-HOT OIL SCALP STIMULATOR \$1.00 3-NU-GRO HAIR CULTIVATOR \$1.00 TOTAL VALUE \$3.00 Special 90 days Trial Supply \$3.00 SEND NO MONEY, PAY THE POSTMAN \$1.00 PLUS A FEW CTS POSTAGE. TRY IT 30-DAYS IF NOT SATISFIED RETURN THE UNUSED AMOUNT AND GET YOUR MONEY. SEND NOW TODAY TO...

Mme. Pauline Lawson, Box 1851, Hollywood, Calif.

"FIRED WIFE"



gano wrote the screen play from an original story by Hagar Wilde and the picture was directed by Charles Lamont.

Rex Ingram plays his part with the dignity befitting a first rate actor. His long stay in Hollywood and his numerous contributions are doing much for a better understanding between the races.

Comical complications follow each other in quick succession until the exciting and satisfying climax of the story in which sparkling dialogue is said to be featured in generous portions.

Michael Fessier and Ernest Pa...

of ours for full and fair employment now and after the good times for everyone.

Signed, VIRGIL BAILEY, 1715 North 26th St., AT-1154.

"ATTENTION" Negro Theatrical Performers The Demand for Colored Talent is Becoming Greater Be Listed in Negro THEATRICAL DIRECTORY

"THE CRITERION" Hollywood 781 F. O. Box 1297, California

20th CENTURY-FOX HITS

WINTERTIME is a wonder musical with SONJA HENIE, JACK OAKIE, CESAR ROMERO, CAROLE LANDIS and WOODY HERMAN and His Orchestra! And what songs! What fun!

CLAUDIA is the picture you've been waiting for...the picture you'll never forget! Introducing wonderful new star DOROTHY MCGUIRE with ROBERT YOUNG and INA CLAIRE!

WATCH FOR THEM ON THE SCREEN!

FOR LAUGHS! FOR LOVE! A New Heart-Hit Team!

It's the time-and-a-half of your life...as wifey strikes to put love on overtime!

ROBERT PAIGE LOUISE ALLBRITTON

Riotous! Romantic!...you'll be raving about this new star team!

Fired Wife

with DIANA BARRYMORE WALTER ABEL WALTER CATLETT ERNEST TRUOX Alan Dinehart George Dolenz Richard Lane Rex Ingram

COMING SOON TO YOUR THEATRE

WETRO-GOLDWYN-MAVERS THE LIONS ROAR Published in this space every week The greatest star of the screen!

Before you go to see M-G-M's "Lassie Come Home", make room in your heart!

Room for tender feeling, stirring emotion, for the magic of laughter!

"Lassie" is that kind of picture. Produced from the glowing pages of Eric Knight's beloved novel. You could say it was a story of a boy and his dog. And that would be true.

You could say that it was really a story about real people and love and laughter and the things that make life good!

That would be true, too. But you have to see "Lassie" to catch the living wonder of the story—to know its deep-down appeal!

Even the glorious Technicolor in which this picture is filmed seems to have a special glow!

And Roddy McDowall and lovable Lassie are the kind of boy and his dog you'll want to adopt.

Your heart will adopt them both! "Lassie Come Home" is now running at New York's great Radio City Music Hall.

Making audiences happy while critics sing its praise. I love a "Lassie"!

P.S. How about a Bond today?

