

Drops Minor Roles to Star in Play of Which She's Author

By BURNS MANTLE. NEW YORK.—(Special Correspondence)—I don't suppose many playgoers know Gilda Varesi, outside New York. And even here she is principally known as the Italian actress whom managers usually select to play those colorful bits demanding a burst of humor and an accent. She has been doing bits for years—and doing them with such amazing thoroughness and such flashes of genius that she has made a definite place for herself in the Metropolitan theater. But Gilda Varesi is middle-aged—and so it never has occurred to any of these wise producers to offer her a leading role, or one with anything resembling a romantic appeal. In fact, it is seldom that such play-wrights to include such a character in their plays, unless it be of distinctly minor importance—a comic widow, a catty spinster or a pathetic boarding house landlady. So it occurred to Varesi that if ever she was to have a chance at such a part she would have to write it herself. Which she did. The resulting comedy, called "Enter Madame," found its way last season into Arthur Hopkins' office, was read by the manager and approved—but laid aside for more pressing matters. Varesi was just then lending force and color to another of her small parts in "The Jest" by beating with such realistic impetuosity upon the breast of the villain of the play, while he was chained to a pillar of stone, that each night the audience rose to her. And you couldn't blame any manager for not wanting to take her out of the cast to let her star in a comedy. But it happens that a young man named Brock Pemberton was one of the Hopkins' staff. He, too, approved of "Enter Madame" as a comedy possibility, and asked permission to take it over, as his own venture. After the run of "The Jest" was concluded this became possible, and this week with six new plays produced, "Enter Madame" was the only one that scored anything resembling a substantial success.

It is a deftly written smart little comedy of the French type; a feminized "Great Lover," with a soprano in place of a baritone craftily setting her own domestic problems. The husband of madame grows weary of following her about the world. He longs for a home, and a fireplace, and slippers. He hangers for a wife who will be something more than a "magnificent mistress" to him. And then he can have these things as the husband of a prima donna he plans to divorce the singer and marry a blonde widow who dotes on toasting slippers for comely men. Everything is arranged for the formal separation—and then madame enters—with her doctor, and her chef, her maid, and her secretary. She is little surprised, but pleased to find everything going so well. She can't understand why her dear husband wants a divorce—but if he does she would not think of denying him his freedom. She even asks the waiting widow to dinner. Aren't they, in a way, to be related—as wives-in-law?

It is the dinner that spoils the divorce. As it runs on it becomes reminiscent. It inspires vivid mental pictures of other dinners—jolly affairs in Munich and Prague, Paris and Vienna. There are discussions and debates concerning the ability of this artist and that of the other of this opera and that of madame's glorious voice and artistic supremacy. The doctor plays the piano. The chef brings his flute. And everybody sings. Naturally, after such a dinner it is easy for husband to go home. He is ready to take the widow to her apartment, but he would like to come back to have a farewell talk with his wife. There are so many things they should talk over. So back he comes—and when the widow continues persistently to call him to the phone to see if he is still there he deliberately leaves the receiver off the hook.

Next morning new plans are made. And when the widow, feeling herself injured, threatens to make trouble, madame suggests that she and her dear husband "elope." So the end of the play finds them starting another tour with the home-hungry mate falling obediently into his old ways. But there is a promise that after one more season madame will retire—and cultivate the art of slipper toasting. Varesi plays the name part brilliantly and Norman Trevor is her leading man. "Enter Madame" looks very much like the first hit of the season.

There is much novelty and considerable drama in another new play called "Spanish Love." The novelty lies in the decoration and the stage direction. The apron of the stage has been extended out into the auditorium until it covers the orchestra pit and takes the place of the first row of seats. Along this the actors promenade, making their exits and entrances through the stage boxes at the sides or up and down the aisles. Sometimes they sit along the edge of the platform, where the footlights used to be, dangling their legs as over a wall, and carrying on the village gossip thus naturally. Again the extended apron becomes a court yard, and finally a balcony. It is novel and interesting. But, personally, we would prefer our actors on the stage. We don't like to have them sneak up behind us, or rush past us, or stop so close to us we can note the fineness of their costumes, and that they, too, have corns.

"The Cave Girl," by George Middleton and Guy Bolton, authors of "Adam and Eva," is also threatened with failure. This is another preposterous tale in which it is impossible to pump up interest because there is nothing even reflectively real about it. The story is that of "The Admirable Crichton" over to fit a wild girl of the Maine woods, who saves a family of helpless society folk from starving to death when their camp burns down—one of these nicely tailored wild girls, who could not possibly bend over to light a campfire without endangering the veins of her riding breeches. Grace Valentine is attractive as the heroine and the support includes John Cope and Saxon Kilgore.



Charley Howard Might Have Been Many Things Save for His Size

CHARLEY HOWARD says his personality saved him from being a loafer. Small of stature, he would be handicapped where physical strength in big measure was required, and, according to his own statement, he just could not settle down with strict application in tasks requiring mental concentration, or like many romping boys, he just would not apply himself to study. He always loved fun, enjoyed making somebody the butt of a joke and enjoyed the joke just as much when it fell upon himself. He says it was his personality that first attracted attention of managers who were looking for his type and in this way he first received an opportunity to break into the lime-light of stage-dom. This was to his liking, and during his earlier engagements he felt big enough to have broken down any stage. He admits that in his own estimation he was one of the interesting characters of history, in fact, he was so intensely interesting that even as well as the knew himself he spent much of his time watching for notices of himself in the newspapers. He used to paste these notices in a scrap book and when he was not busy looking for more writings of himself or more often kicking because he was not getting more conspicuous publicity, he was poring over his coveted scrap book. He has developed mannerisms and a variety of the tricks of comedy, for he is now of the experienced and seasoned comedians of the two-a-day, but those who see him over at the Orpheum this week will admit that his personality is a contributing asset to his success and may believe it saved Charley from heavier work than he is now called upon to do.

Impending Joys at Omaha Theaters

GEORGE WHITE'S "Scandals of 1919" will remain at the Brandeis for an extra last performance tonight and tomorrow. This is a joy bell sound of anticipation for those who have not already witnessed this splendid musical revue. Among the score of more of principals are Grace Cameron, Helen Wilson, Blanche Boone, Irene Gray, Elizabeth Longene, Wain Wolf, Jack Edwards, Victor Carro, Fred Cady, Duke Rogers, the White Way trio, Ed Blenda and all are dovetailed into a host of fun-makers, singers, dancers and story tellers which carried the evening by storm. THE stellar attraction for the week starting today at the Orpheum will be the musical farce-comedy, "Kiss Me," by William B. Friedlander, to which he has given a plot on which are placed dialogue and music. There are five principals in the company, with Dorothea Sadler, Isabelle Winlock and Harry Myer featured. One of the special features will be Charles Howard and Harry Myer in "A Happy Combination." The other is to be Bruce Morgan and Franklyn Gates in their burlesque "The Love of Nonsense." A ventriloquist novelty, "At the Seashore," will be contributed by Hugh McCormick and Grace Wallace. Brent Hayes, most popular of banjola, will offer a program of classic and southern melodies. "An Evening at Home," described only as an act from the overage pleasant evening spent at home, is a surprise vehicle to be presented by the LaZier-Worth company. Harry Collier and Katherine DeWalde will contribute their best in roller skating. Humorous sayings of "Topics of the Day" and news events visualized on the screen complete the program. THE Senora Grand Opera company will open a week's engagement at the Brandeis next Sunday, September 3, in repertoire. From the point of view of artistic orchestration, colorful singing and dramatic acting the Senora company has established an enviable reputation and their engagement here should prove a great early season event. A CURE for those who cannot laugh is a term that might be applied to the "Romancing Girls," this week's attraction at the Gayety. This organization appears in two scenes in "The Love of Nonsense," "After and After That." The roster of performers includes Bert Lahr and Harry Kaye, Adele Ferguson, Kathryn

BRANDEIS THEATRE TONIGHT Extra and Last Time The Revue Inimitable GEORGE WHITE'S SCANDALS OF 1919 with A WHIRLWIND CAST and 30 Beautiful Scandal Mongers Tickets: 50c, \$1, \$1.50, \$2, \$2.50

EMPRESS FEATURE PHOTOPLAYS AND BIG TIME VAUDEVILLE COMPLETE CHANGE OF PROGRAM TODAY "AMERICAN DESERT CAFE" The Intoxicating Girl Revue Featuring DOT SCHAFFER—FRANCIS MORTON and a Sunburst of Pretty Girls MONS HERBERT "The Musical Chef" JIMMY DUNN "The Funny Foolish Fellow" HINKLE AND MAE Presenting "Catching a Car" WM. FOX Presents Shirley Mason in "The Little Wanderer" Ben Turpin Comedy Pathé News Weekly

THE BEST IN VAUDEVILLE Orpheum Circuit WEEK STARTING SUN., AUG. 29 Matinee Every Day 2:15—Every Night 8:15 "KISS ME" With Dorothea Sadler, Isabelle Winlock & Harry Myer Music, Lyric and Staging by William B. Friedlander Hugh Grace McCormick & Wallace in "At the Seashore" Brent Hayes The Master of the Banjo CHAS. HOWARD & CO. in "A HAPPY COMBINATION" With Donald Roberts and Victoria Gale LeZier-Worth Co. in "An Evening at Home" Harry Collier & Katherine DeWalde in "The Poetry of Motion" Bruce Morgan & Franklyn Gates in An Absurdity Entitled "THE PERSONIFICATION OF NONSENSE" "Topics of the Day" Kinograms Matinee, 15-25 & 50c; some at 75c & \$1 Sat. & Sun. Night, 15-25-50-75c and \$1; some at \$1.25 Sat. & Sun.

ONLY CIRCUS DAY IN OMAHA Tents at 20th and Paul Sts. Tuesday, August 31 PRICES: (War Tax Included) Adults, 75c Children, 50c RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM UNION OF THE GIANTS B&RAILEY ASTOUNDING BIG COMBINATION 1/2 MILLION POUNDS ELEPHANT ACT ARMY OF CLOWNS EARTH'S LARGEST ZOO EIGHT GIRAFFES PARADE AT 10 A. M. DOORS OPEN AT 1 AND 7 P. M. PERFORMANCES AT 2 AND 8 P. M. ONE TICKET ADMITS TO EVERYTHING. CHILDREN UNDER 10 YEARS ADMITTED AT REDUCED PRICES Downtown Ticket Office Circus Day at MYERS-DILLON DRUG STORE, 1609 FARNAM ST. Admission Tickets and Reserved Seats on Sale.

What Omaha Parks Offer

AIRPLANE flights by day and night will be one of the features of the reunion of ex-service men to be held at Krug park, this city, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the machines taking to the air from the field directly opposite the park, which has been put in shape by a large force of men. The machines flying at night will carry a stream of "fire lights," illuminating their path through the sky in a most spectacular manner. Reports have been received at the Army and Navy club, headquarters of the committee in charge of the reunion, from a large number of out-state posts, signifying their intention of attending the reunion in a body, and it is believed upwards of 10,000 ex-service men from Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado and the Dakotas will be present. For the barbecue to be given the soldiers Thursday night the committee has purchased 6,000 pounds of beef, and if this isn't enough the committee says it will get 6,000 pounds more. What perhaps will be the biggest event of the three days will be the mammoth display of fireworks, fireworks which will be "shot" from a raft floating on the waters of the pool. Those who have never witnessed the "shooting" of fireworks from the water's edge will see something they will never forget, as the reflection of the fireworks in the water is worth traveling miles to see. MANAWA PARK will close on Monday, Sept. 6, Labor day, after one of the most successful seasons of its history. The park attracted a big crowd last Sunday, and every evening during the week throngs of dancers rocked to the pavilion at the park. Dancing is the most popular attraction at Manawa just now, although boating, enjoying the rides and games, and picnicking are attracting hundreds every day. Manawa is particularly attractive for family picnic parties this year.

Terriss Uses Rough Characters for Plot

Shady Grove, a beautiful grove of trees adjoining the park, is kept open for picnickers at all times. Outdoor camp stoves, tables and benches are furnished. The grounds are offered free for picnics. Aviator Nielsen has been making frequent flights over the park and over the lake this year. The grounds from which his airplane takes off and where it alights, are near the entrance to Manawa park. Roads to Manawa are in excellent condition. Special street car service will be maintained until the park closes. NEXT Thursday night Lakeview park will be all decked out, when the attraction will be the harvest festival and ball. Al Wright and his orchestra have arranged a special program of music for the occasion. The Reed Sisters will offer a number of old-time harvest songs at the dance palace during the evening. Competition will surely develop in the barn dancing contest, when some of the best dancers in the city will compete for a long list of prizes hung up by the management. An English inventor's artificial arm is worn with a waistcoat instead of being strapped to a man's shoulder. An English inventor's artificial arm is worn with a waistcoat instead of being strapped to a man's shoulder.

BASE BALL ROURKE PARK OMAHA vs. WICHITA August 26-27-28-29 Game Called at 3:30 P. M. TWO GAMES TODAY First Game Called 2:15 P. M. Box Seats on Sale Barklow Bros Cigar Store, 16th and Farnam.

LAKEVIEW PARK Conceded to Be "The Joy Spot of Omaha" Polite Amusement for Particular People AL WRIGHT'S FAMOUS ORCHESTRA 11,000 Sq. Feet Clear and Unobstructed Floor DANCING Oh, Folks: Harvest Festival and Ball! Listens good, doesn't it. It's a whale of an attraction, so don't miss out. Harvest favors, decorations, souvenirs, music and just to make it different, the Reed Sisters will sing old-time harvest songs. MR. LAKEVIEW. Giant Jack Rabbit Coaster Beautiful Ohio Cool Rides Omaha's Only Roller Rink—Excellent Floor THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 Harvest Festival and Ball Special Music—Favors—Souvenirs—Decorations Prizes for Barn Dancers ADDED ATTRACTION REED SISTERS Singing Old-Time Harvest Songs

MANAWA PARK Will Close One Week From Tomorrow HURRY and Have That Good Time at Our Largest and Most Beautiful Outing Place DANCING BATHING BOATING RIDES GAMES PICNIC GROUNDS FREE MOVIES And Other Attractions From Omaha—10c and 45 minutes; Council Bluffs—5c and 25 minutes. Admission Free

Attend the Big RE-UNION of All Ex-Service Men to be held at Krug Park OMAHA Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Sept. 1-2-3

Aeroplane Flights By Day Aeroplane Flights By Night Big Program of Athletic Events Every Day. Boxing and Wrestling Elimination Contest.

Big Barbecue Thursday Night The Best Eats in the World Will Be Served FREE to All Ex-Service Men. Spectacular Display of Pain's Fireworks Friday Night. This display will be worth traveling miles to see. It is the biggest and best ever "shot" in Nebraska. Arrange your work and your play hours so you can attend this big Re-Union of All Ex-Service Men Tickets 50c Admits you to park with FREE Ride and Dance Privileges Plus 5c War Tax Tickets 50c Plus 5c War Tax Come each and every day. There's no amusement and entertainment to be enjoyed than what is being ranged by the boys wore the khaki.