

Add "Rollo's Wild Oat" to List of Kummer Successes

By BURNS MANTLE. NEW YORK. — (Special Correspondence)—The best of the three light comedies that were produced last week is a play called "Rollo's Wild Oat," with Roland Young playing the name part.

The play was produced out of town and did not fare particularly well, and its production in New York was delayed. Finally the Selwyns, losing confidence in it, gave it up, and Miss Kummer decided to finance its local hearing herself.

Now she is in the happy position of those playwrights who have been backed their own judgment and can point with pride to the result, for "Rollo" threatens to become one of the real comedy successes of the season.

Rollo of the play is a young man possessed of a modest inheritance and a consuming desire to play "Hamlet." He has ideas about Hamlet. Nothing revolutionary, except that he intends his interpretation shall be modern.

Also he has an idea that a greater intimacy should be established between the players and the theatricals as was done when the tragedy was performed in Shakespeare's day. Let there be steps leading from the auditorium to the stage, so that at any time those in front wish to take part in the action, to become a part of the crowd attending the theatricals at Elsinore, or to follow the melancholy youth through his experiences with the ghost, they may step upon the stage and declare themselves.

He engages a company of old time Shakespearean actors, rents a theater, and proceeds with his production. His Ophelia, however, is a sensible young woman who cannot, try as she will, take the experiment seriously. She knows that she cannot act, and she has her doubts about Rollo. Therefore, she is of a mind to accept the first legitimate excuse that offers to lessen the chances of failure by breaking up the show.

The night of the premier work is received at the theater that Rollo's grandfather is seriously ill. This is Ophelia's chance. With the faithful nurse clasped tightly in her hand, she goes into the first scene and informs Rollo that he cannot decently go on with the play. His grandfather is ill and needs him.

Rollo attempts to reason with Ophelia. Has she "gone mad before her time"? Does she realize that she has mistaken her cue and she is not a part of that particular scene? Ophelia, however, refuses to be swayed from her purpose and the curtain is lowered. It transpires later that when the manager of the enterprise stepped before the curtain and asked if there was a Hamlet in the house, the audience promptly arose as one man and started for the stage. From among the willing understudies Rollo's valet, who had been an actor in his youth, is entrusted with the part, and the play becomes "the laughing success" of the year.

Miss Kummer has a rare gift of fusing the real with the unreal in her comedy plots. As fantastic as this story may sound, it frequently has the holding value of convincing drama, and when it dips frankly into amusements without offending the intelligence of its audience, she also has the gift of writing brighter dialogue than a majority of her contemporaries, and as a result her little play trips along to an accompaniment of hearty laughter, and at the end of the evening the audience is so well pleased with its entertainment that it is eager to remain in its seats and give evidence of its approval.

As for Rollo—he discovers that his grandfather was not really ill, but that he had sent that message to the theater in the hope of preventing his grandson from making a fool of himself. The experience is enough to discourage any young actor, and Rollo agrees not to repeat it. He will marry his Ophelia, if she will have him, which she will, and she will run his grandfather's business of manufacturing airbrakes.



What the Theaters Offer. "MACUSHLA," a play of four joyful acts, written by Julia Johnson...

MACUSHLA, a play of four joyful acts, written by Julia Johnson, comes in a story of young life and light as tender and sweetly fragrant as the first green growth of spring and yet it has nothing of the weakness that comes from too much of the philosophy of sun-shine. The pivotal character is Sir Brian Fitzgerald, Chauncey Olcott, whose heart sings from the joy of living, and never loses its note of sadness whatever comes his way to sadden. His happiness is so real and so his kindness is so great that one can't help feeling better and grateful for having met him and followed him with sympathetic interest through the rippling comedy and pinching scenes that come in and out of the plot of the pattern.

AN EXPERT diving is but one phase of the performance to be given by Annette Kellerman, star of the stage and motion picture, who comes to the Orpheum this week as the chief attraction. In her revue, she is assisted by Oakes and DeLour, also by Alton and Allen. Miss Kellerman sings, dances, walks the tight wire and does many other things. "George on Broadway" is the title of the act to be offered by Maude Powers and Vernon Wallace. Their presentation of the song and dance act is entertaining in the extreme. Welch, Mealy and Montrose, who are billed as "The Surprise Boys," are a team of acrobats with a lively sense of humor. They particularly excel in tumbling. Marvin Morgan and Alton and Allen are to present the one-act play, "The Phone Nelson Story," written by Elsie Clark. It is to be an entertaining instrumental and singing number. The comedy of two actors posing for statues is unique. Such posing is done by Charles Henry's pet in "The Phone Nelson Story." It is to be contributed by Ed M. Gordon and Richard Hill. Amusing paragraphs will be shown on the screen under the heading, "Episodes of the Day," and as usual news events will be pictured by Kinograms.

ARTHUR PEARSON'S "Powder Puff Revue," will be the attraction twice a week at the Orpheum. It has incorporated in it a most dashing, attractive and totally superior group of young women, classified with the Florida Girls; the Long Skirted Chorus of Marie Cahill and Sherry; the girls of "Every Little Movement," famous, trained by George Lederer. The comedy, "The Comedy," handled by Jamie (Scottish) Coughlin and Jack Pearl. Today's matinee begins at 3:00.

LABORATE new scenic productions of "Julius Caesar," "As You Like It," and "Richard III," are being carried by Robert B. Mantell this season on his first tour to the Pacific coast. It has been included in his repertoire at the Brandeis theater during the coming engagement. In addition, the tragedian has with him his usual complete production of "King Lear," "Macbeth," "The Merchant of Venice," "Hamlet," and "Richard III." Featured in his big supporting company is the young and lovely Genevieve Hamper.

DIRECT from Broadway comes Harry Fox, musical comedy star, motion picture star, and vaudeville headliner. Assisted by Beatrice Curtis, he is to top the bill next week at the Orpheum. Roger Imhoff, the character comedian, will appear in one of the featured acts, a sketch

Advertisement for the Orpheum theater. Features Annette Kellerman in "A Bit of Everything" and other acts like "Oakes and DeLour" and "The Phone Nelson Story".

Chauncey Olcott Tells New York Idea of Luxury. Chauncey Olcott has a splendid home in Saratoga, N. Y. Adding to the shade of his stately grounds are two very large "pussy willow trees, whose constantly falling leaves during the summer, aggravatingly litter the lawn and have caused the owner a whole lot of annoyance. One day last summer, Mr. Olcott, in desperation, appealed to a teamster whom he knew, and who asked out an existence by hauling freight from the railroad station, with one little wagon and a single horse. The man's name is Case, Dan Case, and when Mr. Olcott asked him if he would undertake to remove the two offending trees, Dan allowed he would, for a remuneration of \$7 a day.

Olcott naturally thought the stipend asked was somewhat excessive, and told Dan he would think it over. The next day Olcott was telling a neighbor, an old "residenter," Philander Swezey, about the price Case had asked for removing the trees, when Philander, with his long ago accumulated downcast drawl, replied: "Hey, Dan wants \$7 a day does he, I just wonder how many days he would use up on the job?" "Well," answered Olcott, "you know, Philander, Dan has been trucking freight around here for many moons, and no doubt he has saved something and don't really need the work." "Hey, don't need work, eh? Why go! darn it, he hasn't got a penny, hasn't got a penny!" "Why, how do you account for that, Philander?" asked Olcott. "Stravagant?" sharply responded Swezey. "Well now, that's rather odd," declared Olcott. "I can hardly believe that Mrs. Case is extravagant. How do you make that out, Philander?" "Hey, well if you want to know, she goes to picture shows, and eats grape fruit for breakfast, guess I know."

And Mr. Olcott says the pussy willow trees still "decorate" his lawn. Egyptians in L. A. A staff of four Egyptology experts is assisting Art Director Homer I. Mesick in the technical production of "There Was a King in Egypt." Two of these savants specialize on Ancient Egyptian lore, and another is a world wanderer who is particularly well informed on modern conditions in the little known regions about which some of the story is woven. Mrs. Josephine L. Percy is the general research expert.

When word passed around the haunts of student lore that Mr. Hampton was in need of Egyptologists, it became apparent that half of the population of southern California were of the very inner circle. Some of them were direct descendants from the Pharaohs. Others claimed to own a scarab or an Egyptian nutmeg grater or a suitcase with a Cairo hotel mark on it. However, the recommendations of an authentic bureau of research, the Egyptian Exploration society of Boston, led to the selection of a notable staff.

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TONIGHT All This Week Matinees Wed. and Sat. CHAUNCEY OLCOTT IN THE CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT OF HIS CAREER "MACUSHLA" (Pulse of my Heart) BY RIDA JOYNSON YOUNG A romantic and fascinating 4 act comedy with OLCOTT singing four songs AS THE ONLY CAN SING THEM

Advertisement for Augustus Pitou, Inc. presenting May Robson in "Nobodys Fool" with Alan Dale. Includes showtimes and prices.

Give the Best and Get the Best, Says Annette Kellerman. Annette Kellerman, who comes to the Orpheum today, cherishes an amiable disposition toward the public, and has reasoned out a code of rules for her guidance. Miss Kellerman says: "The temperament of stage folks has long been a popular theme with press and public. Temperament is sometimes the most effective expedient publicity seekers among stars have utilized. That there is such a thing as genuine temperament among thespians, there is no gaining saying. That there is such a thing as distemper, will be vouched for by those closely connected with the calling. Different moods and mannerisms are carefully cultivated by players. Some affect a dignity and importance that puts them so far up stage that their auditors never feel better acquainted with them than with the secret of the sphinx. Others bear themselves in a way that the minute they step before the footlights, it is like the home-coming of a good old friend.

Advertisement for the Empress theater. Features "Brazilian Heiress" and "Violet Goulet". Includes showtimes and prices.

Advertisement for the Brandeis Theater. Features Chauncey Olcott in "Macushla" and "Nobody's Fool". Includes showtimes and prices.