

About the Blessed Greenwich Village Theater Once More

A FEW weeks ago The Bee commented on Greenwich Village and its influence in a manner some folks thought was too severe.

There are perhaps a dozen theaters in this town which have so much as a smidge of character, and the Greenwich Village is not one of them.

Like most of the others, it seems to be operated on the same principle which has made many an indiscriminate roadhouse malodorous—the habit of accepting any wayfarer of whatever quality who was willing and able to pay in advance.

Thus in its time the little playhouse in Sheridan Square has housed some pretty weird and objectionable productions, as well as some fine ones, but none even fairly comparable to the execratable monstrosity which induced a mild hysteria in its first audience last Monday night.

For years and years to come the first-nighters will say of this or that disaster: "Yes, it's awful, but you ought to have seen 'Survival of the Fittest' back in the early part of 1921."

As so often in such cases, the question of managerial sagacity does not arise here because the piece was produced by its dotting author. But the production does sharply challenge the intelligence of the actors implied in its performance.

What do players of some little reputation—ones like Grant Stewart and George LeGuere and Laura Nelson Hall—and Montagu Love—what do they mean by accepting roles in such degrading rubbish? Why, before facing an audience with speeches of such unbelievable futility, did they not run star-eyed into the streets and try begging as a profession?

After such another premiere as last Monday's, it would be interesting if the audience were to remain seated and demand a drumhead court-martial. The most aged and irascible first-nighter could easily be persuaded to act as chief inquisitor and the leading actor could be put in the dock.

"Have you any excuse, Cyril Wopple, for playin' in 'The Mauve Gazelle'?"

"Well, ours but to do or die. 'Tis that quite true?"

"Not quite."

"And, anyway, dying were better, don't you think?"

"I think so now. But certainly, ours not to reason why. We are not supposed to ask questions. We take the roles that are handed to us."

"Didn't you spurn a role last month because you didn't want to travel?"

"Didn't you spurn another because it subordinated you to another actor?"

"Yes."

"Didn't you spurn a third because it presented you in what you profoundly regarded as an unsympathetic light?"

"I did. But, sir, a man must live. 'Don't you know that this is spring and the farms are calling for hands?"

"I suppose they are. But I didn't know this stuff was so bad as you say."

"Do you mean to stand there and tell us that you flopped around in this noxious fapdooodle through all the rehearsals and didn't know it was bad?"

"No, we didn't."

"Are actors people?"

"I do not understand you, sir."

"Well, as the blessed Penrod would say, haven't actors ANY sense?"

"Egad, sir, you insult me."

"Egad, sir, that's just what I'm trying to do. And it's been a pleasure. Now we're even."

Sothern-Marlowe Plan Long Tour For Coming Season

E. H. Sothern and Julia Marlowe, who have been spending the winter in Washington and New York city, sailed on the Aquitania on March 22 to spend the spring in Paris and the summer in England, Mr. and Mrs. Sothern will return to America in August to begin rehearsals for their bi-annual tour, which opens in Boston on September 27, after which they will play a limited season in New York, followed by a tour of the west and including this city in addition to the plays presented last year, "Hamlet," "Twelfth Night" and "The Taming of the Shrew."

"The Merchant of Venice" will be acted, with Mr. Sothern as Shylock and Miss Marlowe as Portia. While in Paris the co-stars will purchase costumes for this play. The production will be staged in the manner used last season, though Mr. Sothern expects to introduce some new effects in "The Merchant of Venice."

While in America this winter, Mr. and Mrs. Sothern devoted considerable time to making several phonograph records of scenes from Shakespeare, the first of which has already been put on the market. The others will be released at intervals of two months. The co-stars express themselves deeply interested in the educational possibilities of the phonograph and are greatly gratified by the public reception already accorded their work in this line.

Mrs. Sothern, who recently was honored with the degree of doctor of laws by the Washington university, the only actress in America so distinguished, is in the best of health and looks forward to the resumption of her stage career. So satisfactory from every point of view has been the year's rest that in future the policy of acting only each alternate season will be followed.

Metro's Three Graces

May Allison, Viola Dana and Alice Lake, all Metro stars of the highest degree, are known in west coast cinema circles as "The Three Graces." They are cronies both in the studio and at their homes. They pull together as one in almost every matter affecting their work, recreations and hobbies. Each is a distinct picture type.

Why Pictures Come High

Approximately 1,200,000 feet, or more than 250 miles of film are "shot" weekly in Los Angeles. The cost of the raw film alone is practically a half million dollars, with something like \$20,000 more added for first development.

THEATERS

MARY LEIGH EMPRESS

OTIS SKINNER AT THE VILLA ROSE BRANDEIS

FLORENCE DARLEY GAVETY

LEA LETURE ORPHEUM

A MUSICAL SHOW

(If the Characters Wrote It Themselves)

By JAMES J. MONTAGUE.

Opening Chorus of Corset Models.

Say! Ain't we little beauties?

Just see our lingerie

The prettiest bunch of cuties

In any show are we.

The stuck up prima donna

Is paid a lot more dough.

But she's got too much on huh

It's us that makes the show.

Looka the saps with the opera glasses

Out in the orchestra chairs;

All of them b'longs to them stock-broking classes,

That means they all have got theirs.

Think that they come here to listen to lyrics?

Never a Chinaman's chance!

That's an idea would give you hysterics.

They come here to look at us dance!

(Enter Comedian)—

It's the fellow that is funny who can always draw the money,

There is nothing to this music show but me.

I will make the people happy if my lines are smart and snappy,

I'm the guy that everybody pays to see.

I can always make 'em snicker with my gags about bum liquor

And the booze that all the stews now make at home.

If the show is half way clever, I can make it run forever

With the gray stuff that is underneath my dome.

CHORUS.

If the guy that draws the money

—he is just about as funny

As the lady in the show they call Salome.

It was only luck that made him,

and if anyone X-rayed him

They would paste upon his egg,

"Nobody home."

Exit Chorus and Comedian.

(Enter Prima Donna)—

In all my winning loveliness

I stand before you here;

Your rapture you may well express

The moment I appear.

I have a voice of liquid gold

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What the Theaters Offer

THE desire to have the emotions played upon is a common trait of the human family. If Otis Skinner needed a reason for appearing in "The Villa Rose" this season, the above mentioned fact would furnish it. The play in A. E. W. Mason's "At the Villa Rose" first presented at the Strand Theater, London, early in July and it is still running there. The thing that makes "The Villa Rose" a story of sustained suspense, rapid action, gripping interest and intensely dramatic, is a revolution in police methods to use the great detective Hanaud work and question various individuals with a politeness that is wholly lacking. Mr. Skinner, with a cast of exceptional ability and has mounted the piece beautifully. This year, delightful and talented Madeline Delmar is Mr. Skinner's leading woman. Miss Jeffrey Lewis is seen as the old-fashioned and superstitious Mme. Daubray. In the London production of "At the Villa Rose" a very beautiful and talented actress, Miriam Lewes, created the role of the adventurous and is playing the same part here. The other cast members are: Clarence Dornant, A. Romaine, Callender and John Brown.

UP to the present time each Orpheum show had been one of seven acts; but starting with the current bill, each show is to have eight acts. The first of these, which opens with the matinee this afternoon, has three stellar attractions and one special feature. One of the headliners will be the minstrel celebrity, Lew Dockstader. Another will be the "Peek-a-Boo" act, which will be the "De Wolfe Girls in 'A Love Tour'." The featured offering will be the "A Hungarian Rhapsody." Patrons of the Orpheum will recognize in the De Wolfe Girls two of the cleverest dancers on the vaudeville stage. Their present vehicle, written for them by Max Shinn and Harry De Costa is a sentimental journey of song, dance, and scenery. Murray and Hughes, Harry Wildie, Pierre, and the Seven Musical Spillers, the "Two Doctors," will be appearing in the show. The "Peek-a-Boo" act will be a typical Bedini chorus of 21. Ladies' matinee at 2:15 daily all week. Today's matinee at 2:15.

"BLACK BEAUTY," which opened its engagement at the Brandeis a week ago today to almost empty benches has so engaged the attention and interest of all those who have attended that the management has deemed it good business to hold the show for a week over for the first of this week. The management has adhered absolutely to the work as written, in subject matter, period and all else. The costumes worn by the characters are those of the early seventies.

J. E. H. Sothern and Julia Marlowe are at the Gaiety theater for a week's engagement with a matinee performance daily. The cast is headed by Hobbs Clark and Paul McCullough. In the supporting company are Florence Darley, May Myers, Arnetis Crighton, Kello Brinkley, Ben Grimaldi, Varney, the Six High Steppers, Balzer, Tronzo, Lenaz Plus Troupe of the World's Worst Actors, Murray and Hughes, Harry Wildie, Pierre, and the Seven Musical Spillers, the "Two Doctors," will be appearing in the show. The "Peek-a-Boo" act will be a typical Bedini chorus of 21. Ladies' matinee at 2:15 daily all week. Today's matinee at 2:15.

THE big act at the Empress this week is to be Jack Levy and his Symphony Sisters, Misses Edith, Elizabeth, Edna and Mabel Crowell, all graduates of the New England Conservatory of Music and really stars. The girls and Mr. Levy will play the piano, the violin, the cello and promise to give one of the most interesting musical acts seen in Omaha for some time. Smith and Inman in a rural comedy, "Sally's Visit" can be figured on to present a diversified program of mirth provoking patter, songs and sketches. Kelly and Macky are to offer a line of comedy patter in conjunction with a repertoire of songs new and up-to-the-minute. The Worden Brothers are to present an entirely new and original idea in foot-juggling, combining remarkable speed and accuracy in addition to some laugh-compelling surprises.

UNDER the new policy of offering matinee and evening performances at the Empress, the former custom, the Orpheum and Brandeis, is to have William Seabury in "Fidelity" in the evening. The same policy will be followed in the mounting of the play at its premier in New York has been followed in this instance, the Vanderbilt Producing Company, owners and producers of the play, offering it here on the same magnificent scale.

MESSRS. SHUBERT will present the "What is garden's eleventh annual 'Fading Show' at the Brandeis theater during the last of April. James Barton, who heads the comedy contingent, made a success wherever he has appeared. Next in line come the comedians, Ed. Murray, Al. Martin, Jack Leslie, Frankie Hensell, Hazell Cox, Don Mastell, Edith Lawrence, the Four Haley Sisters, Kyra, Marie Hartwell, Harry Turpin, John Cross and the Winter Garden's usual display of feminine pulchritude.

Otis Skinner As Detective Shows Up Strong in Role

Otis Skinner in a new play and in a new role—one that he has never played before, is an announcement that is bound to excite much pleasurable speculation among the theater-going public; for the advent of Mr. Skinner is always the dramatic event of the local theatrical season. Mr. Skinner and his company open an engagement at the Brandeis on Thursday evening in a new play, one dealing with a crime mystery and called "At the Villa Rose." It is the work of A. E. W. Mason, who dramatized his detective story, printed before the war, of the same name. The piece was produced in London at the Strand theater early last July and is one of the greatest successes of the present season, the role of Hanaud, the detective, being played by Arthur Bonchier—which Mr. Skinner portrays in the American production.

There are thrills aplenty in the new Skinner play, gripping suspense, pulse-quickening situations, dramatic climaxes and strong, sustained interest in the battle of wits between the representative of the Paris police and the gang of international crooks with whom he has to deal. The tension of the third act is breathless and in the fourth where the arch plotters calmly tell the heroine that they propose to give her morphia, destroy her features with vitriol, sew her in a sack and cast her weighted body into the waters of Lake Geneva causes chills to run down the spines of the audiences.

In portraying Hanaud, Mr. Skinner delights by his personality, his artistry and his ability to sink his own individuality into that of the great French detective. He is by turns grave and gay, suave and severe, tender and understandingly sympathetic with the girl who is persecuted by the crooks—the underlying sentiment presages a delicious love-imperturbable as he ensnares the criminals in his net before they realize that they are under suspicion. Mr. Skinner's genius makes Hanaud a great character.

"Twas Easy for Doris Dean A fractured rib was the cause of Doris Dean becoming a decided admirer of the silversheet. Miss Dean is a professional dancer. While appearing in a particularly strenuous dance Miss Dean suffered the rib injury. While convalescing Miss Dean had an opportunity to appear in a picture. She made a hit and now in "The Half Breed," her second picture, she is the leading woman.

To test coffee for adulterants shake some in cold water. The coffee floats; the adulterants sink.

"OMAHA'S FUN CENTER" Gaiety Daily Mat., 15 to 75c Nites, 25c to \$1.25 The Super "PEEK-A-BOO!" Burlesk With Clark & McCullough and all the favorites. Playing to absolute capacity every day. Better than any 22 musical show you have seen. Utterly delicious entertainment. LADIES' DIME MATINEE WEEK DAILY

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EMPRESS

VAUDEVILLE PROGRAM TODAY

JACK LEVY AND GIRLS "A Symphony of Music and Songs"

SMITH & INMAN Presenting "Sally's Visit"

KELLY & MACKY in "Laughs and Songs"

WORDEN BROTHERS "Novelty Upside Down"

PHOTOPLAY FEATURE WILLIAM RUSSELL —in— "BARE KNUCKLES" "knuckles" are the weapons. Cupid is the referee. Love wins. —Century Comedy— "A BUNCH OF KISSES" FOX NEWS

Pola Negri, Polish Actress, Makes Debut



Pola Negri, the famous Continental actress who is the star of the super-drama, "Passion," which comes to the Strand theater next Thursday, is being proclaimed the screen's latest genius. In her first appearance in a motion picture she was called the mistress of the cinema by leading English critics. American reviewers seem inclined to extol her dramatic powers quite as profusely and it is certain the legions of fans have a new heroine to whom to address their letters.

Nita Naldi, the Italian dancer in Paramount's "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," has been chosen for the role of "Passion" in "Experience," George V. Hobart's allegorical play which is now being pictured.

Announcement

Starting Saturday We Will Feature Al Finch and His Majestic (white) Orchestra 5-Piece. Best Music Available.

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L. H. ATKINSON, Prop. C. F. GRUNZKE, Mgr.

Harrison Ford Popular.

The Talmadge sisters are to have a new leading man, and by the same token in filmland developments the coast loses one of its most popular comers in the picture-making profession. He is Harrison Ford, who quietly took his departure a few days ago for the east to become associated with the Schenk interests in New York City. Mr. Ford has achieved particular fame in the west by his appearance as leading man with Paramount productions. He is one of the most successful and popular of the younger actors. It was his desire to return east for a time and he received an agreeable proposition for principal masculine roles in the Talmadge pictures. He is to appear with both Norma and Constance in their forthcoming Associated First National productions.

"The Easy Road," the Paramount picture starring Thomas Meighan, is an adaptation from the story, "Easy Street," by Blair Hall, which was published in Snappy Stories. Gladys George, Lila Lee and Viola Daniel are in the cast.

Vaudeville Artists To Be Honored Here

The men and women of the vaudeville stage in this country are to be honored with a testimonial matinee performance on Friday, April 8. The Empress theater here will join with the 800 other vaudeville theaters of the United States and Canada in donating their entire receipts of the afternoon of this date to the insurance fund of the National Vaudeville artists. Out of this fund every paid-up member of the N. V. A.—and this includes practically every vaudeville artist who see throughout the season at the Empress—is insured for \$1,000 without charge.

In addition to the regular bill, there will be a number of special attractions, especially arranged for this performance. The artists on the bill will endeavor to augment their regular performance with some additional "surprise" offerings.

Practically all the women in East Africa are fat.

EMPRESS

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8-SELECT ORPHEUM ACTS—8

Low Dockstader	Paul Morton and Naomi Glass	De Wolf Girls
in "Normalcy"	Offer a Satire in Two Scenes, Entitled "The Spirit of 78th Street"	"A Love Tour"

Ed—HEALY & CROSS	—Allen—EDWARD FOLEY & LETURE	—Lea—Musical Comedy Divertissement in Songs
CURRON SISTERS Original Flying Butterflies	VALENTINE & BELL The Furniture Removers	

Murray Kissen in "A Hungarian Rhapsody" with Harry Weston, Ben Reubens and Frank Corbett

KINOGRAMS TOPICS OF THE DAY

Matinee—15c to 50c; same at 75c; \$1 Sat. and Sun. Nights—15c to \$1.25. Patrons pay U. S. War Tax.

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Engagement Ends Wednesday, March 30th.

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BY A. E. W. MASON

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