

**David Belasco Amazed
By Wonders of Camera**

David Belasco, master craftsman of all playwrights, had just witnessed, at a private view at the main offices of the William Fox Productions Extraordinary, a "run" of the screen version of his greatest success, the glowing military drama, "The Girl I Left Behind Me," a play of army life and Indian warfare as blood-



CLARA KIMBALL YOUNG
The talented World Films star.

stirring as a trumpet call. He drew a long breath and settled back in his chair as the last stirring scenes in the relief of the beleaguered garrison were flashed. "Wonderful," he exclaimed, "and not the least extraordinary part of it all is that when I wrote 'The Girl I Left Behind Me,' which has always been and still is my favorite bit of work, the cinema had never been thought of. It would have been a wild dream indeed if I had ever thought for an instant that some day my play would be presented not on the boards of a theatre, with artificial

lights and painted scenery, but on the actual ground where its action takes place, with a living background and every device possible to bring out its life and color."

"Acting for the screen, as I take it," he said, "is more or less a matter of converting the complex emotions swaying the characters of the drama to the audience, or, perhaps more properly, the spectators. But after an almost life-long study of lighting and stage effects I have come to regard them as almost as important. The creation of an 'atmosphere' is all important. When you look at the frontier scenes in this production you can say to yourself 'This is Montana.' You feel the sweep of the western winds and the magnificent distances and spaces of the borderland. I don't think that I was ever as deeply impressed by the possibilities of the screen drama as I was while watching

this production of the 'Girl I Left Behind Me.' This utilization of such an immense company, a small army in fact, and real troopers of the United States cavalry enhances the effects I tried to gain in writing this play. It serves to quicken and refresh our pride in our soldiers and I am sure will be a valuable object-lesson in patriotism at a particularly trying time."

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Pathe has added to its list of popular novels which have been acquired for picturization, the latest being "The Picture of Dorian Gray," by Oscar Wilde; "Nedra," by George Barr McCutcheon, and "Comrade John," by Samuel Merwin and Henry Kitchell Webster.

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