

Evening Ledger

AMUSEMENT SECTION

Address all communications to Dramatic Editor Evening Ledger, Independence Square, Philadelphia.

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PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 1916

Bernard Shaw, Our Leading Playwright

UNMISTAKABLY this is the week for Philadelphia to ponder the words of George Jean Nathan, printed in the Amusement Section last week: "I believe with what is almost a 42-centimetre imbecility that poor George Shaw is our most talented living playwright."

Why?

Leaving the critics to their fate—which is to enjoy Shaw—let us try to find out why we have waited till 1916 to make a stir about the man who wrote his incomparable comedy, "You Never Can Tell," back in 1896.

On Walking Too Far Ahead of the Procession

Shaw had a habit of being ahead of his time—a terrible insult for which more than one man has suffered the cross. It wasn't till 1911 and "Fanny's First Play," that he had the grace to slow down a bit and the rest of us the energy to catch up.

To give just a few cases. Shaw wrote the first "white slave drama" in '93 or '94, and had the misfortune of seeing "Mrs. Warren's Profession" acted unprofitably ten years later by Arnold Daly and Mary Shaw; while, if the producers had only waited another decade, would have been quite in fashion.

Advanced Journalism and Advanced Thought

All that is a matter of too advanced journalism. The same thing applies to his advanced thought. We have caught up to "Widower's Houses" at last, "Fanny's First Play" is a primer of youthful rebellion, and "Pygmalion" and "Androcles" seem almost conservative commonplaces.

The Double-track Mind

Even radicals of Shaw's own kidney have had trouble with him. For Shaw is no mere enthusiast, no panacea-peddler with a one-sided vocabulary. As a humanitarian he has always hated war. But he did not, like so many, deny its coming.

Shaw is just as firm a democrat, but he does not for that reason exalt the poor of today. For his purposes he eschews the mass of mankind as dramatic material. "Industrial slavery," he writes, "is not compatible with that freedom of adventure, that personal refinement and intellectual culture, that scope of action, which the higher and subtler drama demands."

Shutting Off Drama From the Masses

By this deliberate intellectualization Shaw would shut off drama from the masses, just as he shuts off so much of his own drama by the exclusion of any but the exceptional man and woman from his plays. The drama is surely the worst of places for such worship of the mind.

Pupils in the Great School

When Shaw writes, "A poor man is useful on the stage only as a blind man is to excite sympathy," he is doing more than deny the possession of human and therefore interesting emotions, human and therefore important reactions, to any but the cultivated leisure class.

Shaw forgets the realities of this world, as well as such examples of the ever bright works of Bunyan and Foxe, when he says, "When poverty is abolished and leisure and grace of life become general, the only plays surviving will be those in which none of the persons represented are troubled with want of money or wretched drudgery."

It is a curious kink in Shaw's thinking to recognize poverty as a falsely wicked, and yet to see as a pre-emption of a desirable future state the leisure which this poverty and exploitation make possible.

HOW TO DO IT

The basis of all art is sincerity. Everybody knows that. No man is an artist who is not true to himself. No nation can create an art without being true to itself.

Questions and Answers

Inquirer—The address of D. W. Griffith is, Care of Triumph Film Corporation, 71 West 23d Street, New York City.

NIXON Today

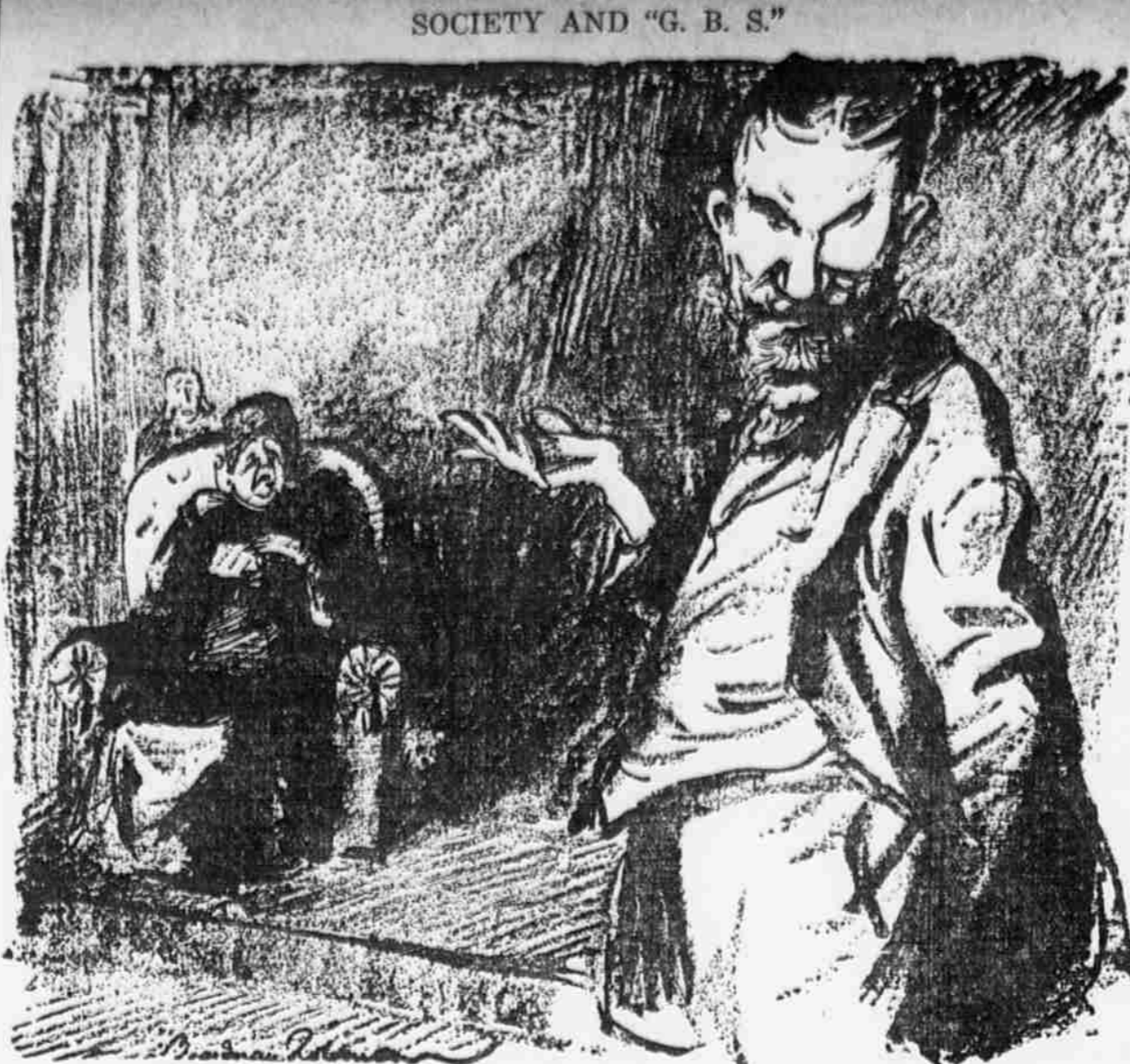
Julia Nash & Co., Dolly & Mack, Dinkelspiel, Trine, Clemence & O'Connor, The Four Roses, M. S. Siedman's, Bears.

Knickerbocker

THEATRE PLAYERS MARKET & 40TH Street, Thurs. Sat. The Ninety and Nine.

Trocadero

Hella Girls & Princess Kalamita.



When G. Bernard Shaw was showing Broadway one of his typically satiric comedies, Boardman Robinson caught for the New York Tribune the benignly sarcastic pose of the author of "Androcles and the Lion."

LETTERS FROM THE PLAYGOERS

Readers and Theatre Patrons on Current Topics of Both Hemispheres of the Amusement World

Objects to Vaudeville Scenery

To the Dramatic Editor: In response to your request for letters of criticism, I desire to call your attention to the scenery at a vaudeville theatre.

It is the policy of the management to change their program of acts every week or stopper, which is a good thing, but why stop there? When an act requires a full stage set one always expects to see the same scenery, which I believe has been in use since the place opened some 12 years ago.

Enjoys Movies

To the Photoplay Editor: From the very beginning of your editorship of this department I have been admiring your clever, just and certainly most refined taste.

BROAD—Last Mat. and Night

Wm. Gillette Sherlock Holmes

2 WEEKS, Monday Night, Matinee, Wed. & Sat. CHARLES FROHMAN Presents

JOHN DREW "THE CHIEF"

IN HIS GREAT-EST COMEDY BY HORACE ANNEVELLY VACHELL, "THE BOY WHO HAD HIS YEARS" NEW YORK HERALD.

FORREST—Mat. Today TONIGHT

NEXT Final Week Nights at 8:15. Week. Mat. Wed. & Sat. CHARLES DILLINGHAM Presents

WATCH YOUR STEP

Mrs. Vernon Castle—Frank Tinney Bernard Granville BRICE & KING; HARRY KELLY; 100 Others.

GARRICK—Mat. Today TONIGHT

NEXT 3d Week Nights at 8:15. Week. Mat. Wed. & Sat. COHAN and HARRIS Present

THE BEST PLAY PHILADELPHIA HAS SEEN IN 25 YEARS

ON TRIAL

ACADEMY OF MUSIC ONE SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JAN. 15

Cinderella and Little Glass Slipper A Most Thrilling Production of the Charmaine Fairy Story by 150 Clever Juveniles.

AMERICAN GARDNER Below 5th. ARVINE PLAYERS in "BROADWAY JONAS"

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Golden West—by the way, where is she? And what is the matter with series like the John Bunny sea stories? Would not the public appreciate them far more than the series of "nickel shockers" now being produced as series, with such able casts, too, some of them?

Why? Why? Why? To the Photoplay Editor: In the "movies" I find the following pests to mar my enjoyment: First, Why does the political boss always smoke so furiously and roll his cigar about his mouth?

Bringing a Mountain to Mohammed Stage producers have gone to heretofore unheard-of extremes to produce sensational and spectacular effects, especially since the rage of the "movie" melodramas has predominated. It is doubtful, however, if anything more startling or more original in idea has ever been shown than the mountain of snow used in the dancing pantomime of Alice Eis and Bert French, who come to B. F. Keith's Theatre next week.

ALICE EIS At Keith's next week. The Lure of the North. The mountain of snow is made of soap bubbles and the curtain is upon a scene of dazzling snow and ice. Huge billowy masses the snow mountains cover the back of the stage and rise as far as the eye can reach into the height of the scene.

B. F. Keith's Theatre CHESTNUT AND TWELFTH STS. Mat. 2 P.M. 2 Shows Daily. Night, 8 P.M. NEXT WEEK A BILL OF BRILLIANT FEATURES!

ALICE EIS & BERT FRENCH Presenting "The Lure of the North" "THE LADY DAINY" BESSIE WYNN

HARRY GIRARD & CO. In "The Luck of a Totem" Agnes Scott & Henry Keane Offering "The Final Decree"

CONLIN, STEELE & PARKS In a Medley of Comedy and Song Leipzig; John Cutty; Lunette Sisters; Two Carbons; SELIG TRIBUNE PICTURE NEWS

THE LONDON SENSATION "THE FOREST FIRE"

NIXON'S GRAND BROAD AND MONTGOMERY F. G. LYON-NEILLER, Gen. Mgr. DAILY MATS., 10c; 7 & 9, 10c and 20c

CUTTY WILD MOORS 10 of the 6 Musical Cuts

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LYRIC MATINEE TODAY, 2:15—TONIGHT, 8:15 Beginning Monday a Triumphant Week

5 MONTHS IN NEW YORK

New York Damrosch Symphony Orchestra Elman

JOHN McCORMACK WILL SING AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC "THURSDAY EVENING, JAN. 13

ADDELPHI—Beginning Mon., LAST WEEK

ANDROCLE'S AND THE LION PRECEDED BY The Man Who Married a Dumb Wife

By ANATOLE FRANCE With O. P. HEGGIE and London Company Direct from Wallack's Theatre, New York

BEGINNING MONDAY JANUARY 17th BETTER THAN "OLD HENRY" OR "WAY DOWN EAST"

"SINNERS" By OWEN DAVIS. Coming Direct From Its Long Run in New York and Chicago



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GLOBE THEATRE MARKET & JUNIPER STS. In the Heart of the Shopping District PRICES 10, 15, 25c

CONTINUOUS 11 A. M. TO 11 P. M. America's Funniest Comedian

EDMUND HAYES & CO. IN HIS OWN SCREAMING FARCE COMEDY "The Piano Mover"

EXTRA ADDED ATTRACTIONS Ergotti's Lilliputians Usual Attractive Surrounding Bill

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MATINEE DAILY, 2:30 ALL SEATS 10c EVENINGS, 7 & 9, 10c, 15c, 20c

AL WHITE CURTIS & COMPANY'S Musical Comedy

PRESENTS A SINGING AND DANCING KID LAND LINKS

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12 Big Scenes 30 Tuneful Song Hits

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ADDELPHI—Beginning Mon., LAST WEEK

MATINEE TODAY, 2:15, TONIGHT AT 8:15 Lillah McCarty, Gravelle Harkey and Percy Barton Present

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