

Evening Ledger

AMUSEMENT SECTION

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

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PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1916

With Its Sins Upon Its Head

THE most hopeful theatrical news in a long time is the demise of "Sinners."

Pity the Poor Critic!

"Sinners" was a trial to the critics Monday night. Not because it was bad.

The trouble with "Sinners" was that it left us high and dry—and proved, it deserved us. It wasn't trying to be intelligent or charming or thrilling or realistic or witlessly amusing.

The "Good of Its Kind" Fallacy

Virtually every critic at the Adelphi felt that he had no business applying sophisticated standards to Owen Davis' bland vapors.

And there we made a doubly pernicious mistake. That old "good of its kind" fallacy led us into two blind alleys. Ashamed of our task, we immediately lost interest and perspective and guessed wrong.

Up Guards and at 'Em

The critic simply can't go on complacently letting irresponsible do what they please with the theatre—not if it means anything to him.

Where Are the Way-Down-Easters of Yesterday?

Fortunately the theatre is getting by the "Ben Hur" period. That is the promise in "Sinners" end. Large statements are risky; but it is pretty safe to say that the managers have uniformly failed at the game of manufacturing successors to "Way Down East."

Has the "Ben Hur" public begun to develop dramatic taste? Clinging reminiscently to its first love, is it demanding something better as substitutes for that sentiment-gilded play?

Something You're Missing

For almost three months the Stage Society has occupied the Little Theatre on Friday and Saturday nights. For almost three months it has been giving entertaining and intelligent little plays with good acting and incomparable settings.

Obviously, somebody is making a mistake. We don't think it is the Stage Society. We think it is the people who want something good that the professional theatre doesn't often furnish.

CUT-BACKS

Some Sins From "Sinners"
"No, no, let me speak."
"Who happens to be on the level. That's all."

The Dramatic Dictionary

Library—A room where all books come in sets of four or more, c. f. "The Chief."

There Were Press Agents in Those Days

DECLARE YE AMONG THE NATIONS AND PUBLISH, AND SET UP A STANDARD OF PUBLISH, AND VOICE OF THE NATIONS, Jeremias 1, 2.

And that, we must confess, is the discovery of a particularly good press agent, Edward L. Bernays, of the Ballou & Russel, who put it on his New Year's cards.

Charge of the Motion Picture Brigade
"Up through the meadows, rich with corn,
Clear on a cool September morn."

EATON SEES "THE WEAVERS"

Continued from Page One
varies. It was probably ahead of its times in '93.

As a matter of fact, it is ahead of its times now.
For the naturalistic drama, at least in America, seems very little nearer to development and popularity today than it was when James A. Herne wrote "Grimsby Daventry" certainly, Hauptmann's achievement in "The Weavers" of making not an individual but a movement his hero represents an actual achievement we have not yet duplicated.



ELSE ALDER
Fresh from Vienna and star of "Around the Map," which comes to the Forrest January 31.

THE SILENT DRAMA



Shades of Shakespeare—Alas! Poor Yorick.

LETTERS

From an Amateur Critic

To the Photoplay Editor:
In your editorial a few weeks ago you extended an invitation to amateur critics to come forward with their views on the current attractions in the theatre—both the spoken drama and the movie.

I have always felt that if we were to be guided by the views of some of the critics as a criterion by which we determine what is best in the theatrical calendar, we would be denied many pleasing performances.

Take, for example, George Jean Nathan, whose entertaining pages are one of the features of The Smart Set. While I thoroughly enjoy his articles, I have always imagined the man suffering with acute indigestion or some physical ailment which prevents him from seeing and enjoying all the good things in life.

Another case in point is the efforts of a Philadelphia correspondent to one of the New York theatrical weeklies. His record of our dramatic life of late could be made as readable as the Chicago or Boston writers to the same paper, but the man in question seems to be satisfied when he has informed us of the attractions at each of our theatres and then adds that such-and-such a play is "well acted" or "poorly acted" or "interesting."

Speaking of the Little Theatre, I consider that the Stage Society is deserving of all possible praise for its painstaking and conscientious activities. Some of its offerings were not as smooth as one would desire, but the selection of its little plays shows forthright in choice and enjoyment all the good things in life.

The presentation of "The King of the Black Isles" is worthy of a repetition in one of its future lists of plays. The costumes, dancing and pantomime were all that could be desired, with this one exception—eliminate the four or five dancing girls in the second part. Their costumes, dancing and pantomime were all that could be desired, with this one exception—eliminate the four or five dancing girls in the second part.

Deplorable Lack of Seriousness

To the Photoplay Editor:
Sir—May I intrude my views on the lack of serious and well-constructed plots in the modern feature films. I feel that it is a sign of a most grave and disturbing lack of interest in the better ideals of drama. The great plots of Shakespeare are wholly neglected, while the blood and thunder tales of the West grip the public, even though common sense tell us all that they are exaggerated and untrue. Let us set our faces against this influence and strive to lift the screen to a higher standard.

Philadelphia, January 4, 1916.

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WINE IS A MOCKER STRONG DRINK IS RAGING

Before coming to this country, John T. Murray, the English actor who is appearing in "The Passing Show of 1915," was playing at the Lyric Theatre, gained considerable experience in the English provinces as a member of an around-the-world stock company.

"I joined the company in London," says Mr. Murray, "just before we started out for Australia. We were shy a character woman, and as a last resort our manager took on a very fine character woman who had a reputation for hard drinking. He cautioned her that this habit would not be tolerated, but instead of treating her severely, he suggested that he handle her money and thus save her money which might otherwise go for drink. The lady was indignant when he suggested that she have such a reputation."

"However, she agreed to the conditions, and for five weeks or more there was no evidence of her falling off the water wagon. By and by we reached Bombay, where we expected to make an impression which would firmly establish us throughout India. We opened with a harrowing melodrama called 'Mother and Son.' The big scene came in the third act and showed the progress of a trial—our character woman did not appear in the first two acts, but really had the big moment in the third act. As we went up the big scene, the manager became uneasy and scouts were sent in search of her. She was finally located in a very quiet, unassuming condition in a quiet cafe. She reached the theatre, however, in time for the big scene and came on rolling like a ship. As the chief witness she confronted the judge and before him she said: 'I have ever seen him before.'"

"I have not," said the character woman.
The judge repeated the question.
"Never in my life," came back the answer.
"Thinking to bring her to a realization of the situation, the judge continued, 'Is this your son?'"
"And came back the answer—'No, your honor.'"
"Whereupon the judge, leaning forward, thundered:
'I beg of you madam, tax your memory.'"
"But this was too much, and by this time not only the house but all of the actors on the stage were almost hysterical. The following day our little troupe started back to England. The character woman, as far as I know, is still in the backroom of that little English cafe."

February Records From the Columbia

A wide variety of entertainment is offered by the Columbia Graphophone Company in its record for February. Prominent in the list are the recordings of Josef Hofmann, one of the master pianists of the world. Two of the selections which music lovers will have the opportunity of hearing on the records are Sternberg's "Prelude in G Minor" and Rachmaninoff's "Prelude in G Minor." These artists' interpretations are considered triumphs in technique.

Also, I wish to thank you for your invitation to enter criticism. I may not have hit the bulls-eye this time, and wandered into too many different paths, but kindly bear in mind that your call was to amateurs, and as such I can truthfully sign myself, AMATEUR.

NEWMAN ARGENTINA

TRAVELTALKS Exquisite Color Views and Motion Pictures
NEXT FRI. EVE. 8:15 SAT. MAT. 2:30

ELMAN

RESERVED SEATS, \$2 TO 75c. NOW ON SALE AT HEPPE'S, 1119 CHESTNUT ST.

BOURSTIN

Witherspoon Hall, Mon. Eve., Feb. 7, at 8:15 P. M.

RICH-GIORNI RECITAL

University Museum ADDITIONAL CRUISE OF KING AND WING and other in the historic of St. Ignace's Men First Showing. Free.

MAQUARRE ENSEMBLE

WM. PENN EVGGS, 7 & 8-10c, 20c. Matthews-Shayne & Co. LOPEZ & LOPEZ MacRae's THE LITTLE GIRL AND HER SON EXTRA ADDED ATTRACTION

SYD CHAPLIN "A SUBMARINE PIRATE"

GLOBE Theatre MARKET and VAUDEVILLE—Continuous 11 A. M. to 11 P. M. 10c, 15c, 25c.

"The Jungle Man" "Petticoat Minstrels"

CLAIRS AL WHITE'S KIDLAND; OTHERS

WON'T YOU COME INTO MY PARLOR?



Pauline Frederick and Frank Losee in "The Spider," the new Famous Players' production, which comes to the Stanley next week.

Canals the greatest man that draws the bow. In the vocal line Corinna Rider-Kelsey will be heard in Braga's "Angel Serenade" and the concert favorite, "Chanson Provencale."

Those who are fond of character comedy will be entertained with two interesting monologues by Cyril Maude, the famous English actor. These are entitled "Dinky," a conversation between two corkers' longshoremen, and "A Telephone Reconciliation," which features a conversation overheard in London during the great war.

Efficient performances of orchestral overtures are given in Von Suppe's "Post and Paasant Overture" and "Morning, Noon and Night Overture," two of the most popular overtures in the musical field.

There will also be many other instrumental, vocal, popular and dance selections.

The Girl and the Car
Appearing in Dustin Farnum's Pallas-Paramount picture, "The Call of the Cumberland," is an old lady of 92 who never saw a theatre or film until the day she was brought in an automobile from the home of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Winifred Kingston, in her search as a mountain maid, promised the old lady a ride in her automobile, which prompted

this reply: "Just a slip of a girl not more than 14 and a ragamuffin to have an automobile to take folks out in! Think of it!"

WILKARD THE MAN WHO GROWS

One of earth's greatest marvels. The man who has accumulated scientists and who has spent every natural law.

ADDELPHI LAST MAT. TODAY

THE SEASON'S "SINNERS" BEST PLAY

ARCADIA CHESTNUT BELOW 10TH

Comedy—"A MODERN ENOCH ARDEN"

Dumont's

Minstrels, 9th & Arch Sts. MATINEE TODAY, 10c & 25c.

THE PASSING SHOW of 1915

LYRIC
MATINEE TODAY, 2:15; TONIGHT, 8:15

The Most Modern Musical of Modern Times 12 Stupendous Stage Pictures of Awe-12 Inspiring Spectator

George Monroe Eugene and Willie Howard MARILYNN MILLER

ADELPHI—BEGINNING JANUARY 31

FRANCES STARR IN EDWARD KNOBLAUCH'S REMARKABLE PLAY "MARIE ODILE"

BROAD STREET THEATRE

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT Monday, Jan. 24 BEGINNING

POLLYANNA

THE GLAD PLAY By Catherine Chisholm Cushing From the World-Famous Book of the Same Name by Eleanor H. Porter

WITH A CAST OF GREAT DISTINCTION: PATRICIA COLLINGS EFFIE SHANNON HERBERT KELLEY PHILIP BRYANT JESSIE BUSLEY MAUDE GRANGER ROBERT JOHN LOREN BAKER HELEN WEATHERS MAUD HOSFORD

SEATS ARE NOW ON SALE GET YOURS EARLY AND BE GLAD. DO NOT WAIT OR YOU MAY BE TOO LATE

WE HAVE HERE LIONEL BARRMORE IN "THE GENERAL"

THE GALLANT PEDRO CALLS ON HIS SWEET-HEART, FAIR FELICIA, AND PROPOSES.

B-MINE?

FELICIA WILL NEVER WED ANYONE BUT A BATTLE-SCARED GENERAL

SO PEDRO WENDS HIS WAY TO THE TRENCHES.

HEP! HEP!

Continued on next page