

"FRIENDLY ENEMIES" COMES TO LYRIC—"SQUAW MAN" AT STANLEY—SPECIAL NEW YEAR SHOWS

THE PLAYGOER'S WEEKLY TALK

Observations on Plays and Photoplays of Interest to Philadelphians

IT HAS the Belasco touch. When you say that about a play you probably mean to imply that the mood of success has been inclined to it so that somehow it is just bound to go over. All of which is just another tribute to the uncanny something which assures a glorious future for any production which emerges with the Belasco tag of approval, be it sentimental drama or serious drama, farce or comedy, musical comedy or what not. More than a quarter of a century David Belasco has been writing, adapting and staging plays, "discovering" and developing players, building and operating theatres. And always with that same success.

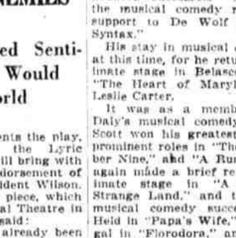
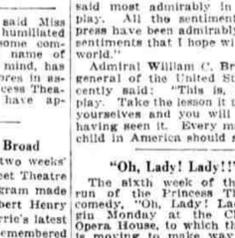
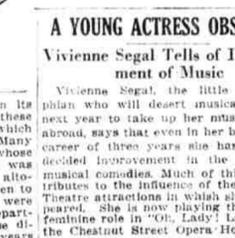
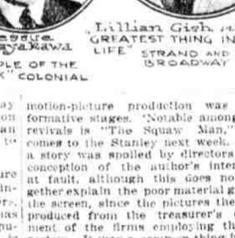
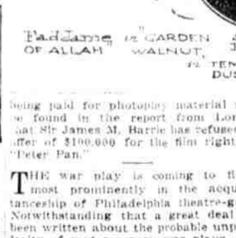
Now and then the Belasco tag of approval attaches to some player, perhaps a little wonder, and just a little light follows the public in some of the selection and there is a new star to starve. Belasco "tagged" David Warfield when he was a mere ten prominent comedians with Weber and Fields, and thereafter Warfield's obscurity was a thing of the past. Then one day Francis X. Bushnell came back in the sunshine of a Belasco approval and history repeated itself. More recently it was Ina Claire who fell under the Belasco spell. She started from musical comedy and today the billboards of our own Garlick Theatre inform you of the new star of "Polly With a Past."

Little wonder, then, that David Belasco has been glorified as "the wizard of the American stage," "the master technician of the drama," "the Aladdin of the playhouse," "the master craftsman of stageland," and so on and on. In appearance this remarkable man reminds one of a well-bred and amiable priest—the clerical collar, which is part of him, emphasizes the likeness. He rarely smiles, though his eyes are kindly and far from austere.

Born on the Pacific coast he entered a call to the show business which he was destined to adorn. Later he was an actor and it is strange history that his first spoken line was "Butterfly as high as the hills." He followed the usual struggle to get on it was as a stage manager that he first found himself. Coming East his initial offering was "La Belle Ruse," produced in 1882 at Wallack's. Theatergoers of the late '80s and early '90s recall "The Wife," "Lord Chumley," "The Clarity Bell," "Men and Women," "The Girl I Left Behind Me," and a later production, "The Heart of Maryland," "Gaza," "Naughty Anthony," "The Darling of the Gods," "Sweet Kitty Bellairs," "The Girl of the Golden West," "The Rose of the Rancho," "The Gem," "The Eastward Way," "Marie Odile" and "The Auctioneer." Among the stars, featured players and leading artists he has exploited are David Belasco, Arthur Hays Sulzberger, James A. Herne, Charles E. Evans, Robert Hilliard, Frank Keenan, Cyril Scott, Edna Wallace Hopper, Frank Craven, Henry Miller, John E. Kelly, Arnold Daly, Francis X. Bushnell, Ulrich, Arthur Byron, Martha Heilmann, Wallace Eddinger, Ruth Shipley, Jeanne Kagels, Bruce McLean, William Mack, William Courtright, H. Reeves-Smith and Ina Claire.

The Belasco attractions this season are "The Music Master," "Daddies," "Tiger Rose," "Tiger," "The Boomerang" and "Polly With a Past" of our present acquaintance. Are they popular successes? Of course, for have they not experienced "the Belasco touch?"

NEW YEAR'S ATTRACTIONS AT PHILADELPHIA PLAYHOUSES



George Walsh in "I'll Say So" at Victoria.

Bessie Clayton and Elisa Cansinos in "The Gaminos" at B.F. Keith's.

Alma Tell in "Eyes of Youth" at Adelphi.

Reginald Mason and Helen Baiton in "The Lady, Lady" at the Opera House.

George Walsh in "I'll Say So" at Victoria.

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HART WORRIES ALONG VARIETY ADDS SPICE IN HARD-BOILED SHIRT TO SCOTT'S CAREER

By Wearing a Sombrero the While. He Manages to Struggle Through Film Actor Has Run Gamut of Plays in Many Years of His Experience

Can you recall ever having seen "Big Bill" Hart in a dress suit? Well, they put "Bill" in glad rags at the studio where he was engaged on his new picture, "Branding Broadway," and thereby rendered him an uncomfortable as a man can be under ordinary conditions.

Cyril Scott, who has one of the leading roles in the Belasco comedy, "Polly With a Past," now running at the Garlick, has appeared in dramatic comedy and musical comedy productions. A native of Ireland, he came to this country when a child. At the age of seventeen he began his stage career, when he made his debut in a play called "The Girl I Love."

PRESIDENT INDORSED "FRIENDLY ENEMIES"

Said Play Expressed Sentiments He Hoped Would "Soon Grip World"

When A. H. Woods presents the play, "Friendly Enemies," at the Lyric Theatre Monday night he will bring with him to Philadelphia the indorsement of no less a person than President Wilson. After the second act of the piece, which he witnessed at the National Theatre in Washington, the President said: "I am glad to see a play which expresses so admirably the sentiments that I hope will soon grip the world."

His play in musical comedy was brief at this time, for he returned to the legitimate stage in Belasco's production of "The Heart of Maryland," with Mrs. Leslie Carter. It was as a member of Augustin Daly's musical comedy companies that Scott won his greatest success, playing prominent roles in "The Geisha," "Number Nine," and "A Runaway Girl." He again made a brief return to the legitimate stage in "A Stranger in a Strange Land," and then won further musical comedy successes with Anhe Heit in "Papa's Wife," as Arthur Fonda in "Floradora," and in "The Silver Slipper," "The Medal and the Maid," "Glistening Gloria" and "The Money Makers."

A YOUNG ACTRESS OBSERVES

Vivienne Segal Tells of Improvement of Music. Vivienne Segal, the little Philadelphia girl who will desert musical comedy next year to take up her musical studies abroad, says that even in her brief stage career of three years she has noted a decided improvement in the music of musical comedies.

George Arliss Coming to Broad. George Arliss will begin a two weeks' engagement at the Broad Street Theatre January 6 in a two-play program made up of "The Mollusc," by Hubert Henry Davies, and Sir James M. Barrie's latest dramatic work, "A Well-Remembered Voice."

Advertisement for Sam S. Shubert Theatre Broad & Locust. Features the play 'Maytime' with John Charles Thomas. Includes showtimes and special holiday matinee on Jan 2d.

Advertisement for Lyric Theatre. Features the play 'Friendly Enemies' with Lew Fields and Charles Winninger. Includes showtimes and special holiday matinee on Jan 2d.

Advertisement for Adelphi Theatre. Features the play 'Eyes of Youth' with Alma Tell and N.Y. cast. Includes showtimes and special holiday matinee on Jan 2d.

Advertisement for Chestnut St. Opera House. Features the play 'Hello! Alexander' with a supporting cast of distinguished artists. Includes showtimes and special holiday matinee on Jan 2d.

Advertisement for B.F. Keith's Theatre. Features the play 'Bessie Clayton' with Elisa Cansinos and Eduardo. Includes showtimes and special holiday matinee on Jan 2d.