

OLD FAVORITES AND NEW CANDIDATES ON COMING BILLS

THE PLAYGOER'S WEEKLY TALK Observations on Plays and Photoplays of Interest to Philadelphians

THREE theatrical changes of billing next week will bring "Rollo's Wild Oat," a new comedy, to the Philadelphia, a revue featuring Elsie Janis, the Garrick, which for a long time has been staging comedies, and an old favorite, "Ben Hur," to the Forrest.

WITH the delightfully piquant title of "Rollo's Wild Oat" the Selwyns are to present a new comedy at the Philadelphia Theatre, with Roland Young, taken from his stellar part in "Buddies," featured. The engagement gives Philadelphia an opportunity to pass judgment upon the newest Kummer comedy ahead of New York.

L. ERLANGER is in Philadelphia this week putting final touches on his new production of "Ben Hur," which will open its twenty-first season at the Forrest Monday night. This spectacle, which was dramatized from General Lew Wallace's novel, was the first big achievement of the head of the big producing firm, and he has always had a soft spot in his heart for it. He has had personal supervision of its production. During the war and since the armistice it was impossible for the railway administration to transport rolling stock to transport the company with its scenic effects and accessories from city to city.

THAT distinguished musician and conductor, Gustav Hinrichs, will direct the music for the engagement of "Ben Hur," which returns to the spacious stage of the Forrest Monday night. It was at the request of Edgar Stillman Kelley, the composer of "Ben Hur's" colorful and impressive score, that some years ago Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger engaged Mr. Hinrichs to conduct the orchestra. Mr. Hinrichs's name is associated with the history of music in Philadelphia. His work as musical director of the American National Opera Co. and his memorable seasons of grand opera at the Grand Opera House in this city earned for him a debt of gratitude.

RESERVATIONS for the opening performance of Elsie Janis and Her Gang at the Garrick next Monday night indicate that this favorite of the public and the A. E. F. will find an audience composed very largely of graduates of the late unpleasantness overseas, and it is likely that during her fortnight's engagement in the Pennsylvania sector many more will rush into the Garrick dugout as fearfully as they swarmed over the Hindenburg line. Miss Janis is an honorary member of numerous posts of the American Legion throughout the country, and in all cities visited has received marked attention from the boys who wore khaki.

PITY the poor harp player at the Chestnut Street Opera House. He certainly is playing in hard luck. Here is the plight of a musician, even when man of music finds himself. He is one of the entourage of musicians that accompanies the musical play, "Somebody's Sweetheart."

While the company manager, W. F. Molitor, was standing in the lobby last night the harpist approached and asked for a night off. Despite the fact that he had been present at every performance of "Somebody's Sweetheart" for a year, the musician stammered the manager with the reply that he wanted the night off in order to see the show. The manager's first thought at such an apparently inconsistent request was "another musician gone crazy; I guess I'll have to humor him until the wagon comes."

Then the harpist made clear, sanely enough, that not once through his long engagement with this piece had he seen the show, strange as it seemed. He explained that the cramped quarters of the orchestra pit forced him to sit throughout the performance, even when resting, with his back turned to the stage. The manager has promised the player a night off when they play a one-night affair at the Grand Opera House here. By the looks of business it's a long way off.

EVER so quietly, Alice Brady tested a new play during the course of her run in "Forever After." The new piece, entitled "Anna Ascends," is a melodrama by Henry Chapman Ford, and in it Miss Brady is in the role of a Syrian girl who comes to America. The play, presumably, will be Miss Brady's vehicle for next season.

THE theatre did invaluable service back of the firing line. Another player who made a record in Marie Dressler, the noted comedienne, who devoted more than three years to government work and who has now returned to the stage in "Tillie's Nightmare," her success of a decade ago and still a laugh-getter from persons not too sophisticated by jazy revues.

Miss Dressler holds the individual record for bond sales of the workers in the Liberty Loan drives. During the

WHO'S WHO ON LOCAL STAGES



J. TOWNSEND, Orpheum



ADA TOOMAN, GREENWICH VILLAGE FOLLIES Shubert



ELSIE JANIS with "HER GANG" Garrick



WILLIAM KENT, "SOMEBODY'S SWEETHEART" Opera House



ROLAND YOUNG, "ROLLO'S WILD OAT" Philadelphia



HORACE GOLDIN, Globe



BILLIE HILL, Peoples



MADLEINE WOOD, Allegheny

Victory Loan Miss Dressler sold \$11,400,000 worth of bonds. During an earlier campaign she traveled from Washington to Los Angeles, making 142 speeches in twenty-eight days. Miss Dressler gave her entire time and services, paying all of her own expenses.

THERE were two large parties at the Broad opening night. Marie Dressler on one side of the footlights and a sophomore-scorer bery of debaters on the other. It was hard to tell which was the noisier, though the honors for being the more amusing, of course, went to Miss Dressler.

THE "versatility" of the movies matches the multiple interests of the acts shown in vaudeville, and surely there is no wider variety of material than that in a two-day bill. Next week at the Stanley is to be shown a program of movies which combines life beneath the sea, as pictured in the "Log of the U-55," a graphic record of the sinking of merchant ships by the undersea wolf. Another and even more timely subject is found in Goldwyn's "Trip to Mars," which theorizes on the many ways in which travel to and communication with that planet may be made at some future time. The movies do keep up with the news. It is not unusual for a film patron to go to his favorite house of the celluloid and find an event depicted upon the screen which occurred only a few hours before.

JOSEPH SHRANK sends in this rhymed review of "The Crimson Alibi": A darkened room, a flashing knife, A muffled groan—the deed is done; No noise, no clue, no sign of strife, The baffling mystery's begun.

A Sherlock Holmes, a master brain. An opera writer, quite reflective, A form-fit coat, a dressy cane— This, readers, is our great detective.

J. Quincey was a bad old guy, A crab, a reprobate, a nagger; The point is—how he came to die, Who killed him with a silver dagger.

Professor Bristol came along, "My God, I'm going to be suspected!" Our sleuth, however, says he's wrong, The guilty man will be detected.

Young Quincey, on the fatal night, Was wild about a girl, and drinking; He spoke about a certain fight, Which set our wily sleuth a-thinking.

The butler was a shady chap, He'd quarreled with his murdered master; It seemed he's in an awful trap, Solutions started coming faster.

But wait, the sweetheart of the maid Had sworn to kill the murdered blighter; Escaped from jail and unafraid, It took three cops to get this fighter.

So now, you see, good people all, That things are getting pretty messy; But nothing could our sleuth appal, He coat and cane remained quite dreezy.

In fact the last act came along, And matters still were quite upsetting; The case against a bunch was strong, And most of them were even betting.

Now here's a mystery, oh, my, At which a Sherlock Holmes would stagger; The point is how he came to die, Who killed him with a silver dagger?

PHILADELPHIA'S FOREMOST THEATRES FORREST Last Mat. & Evg. Positively Last Times RAYMOND HITCHCOCK

GARRICK Last Mat. & Evg. JOHN GOLDEN'S LAUGHING HIT

3 WISE FOOLS POSITIVELY LAST TIMES Philadelphia Mat. Today

JOHN DREW "THE CAT-BIRD" The Unusually Brilliant Comedy

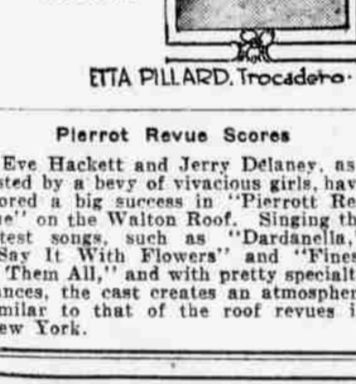
Academy, Fri. Aft., Feb. 20 at 3 Chopin—PIANO RECITAL by GABRILOWITZSCH

Academy of Music, Feb. 21 SATURDAY AFT. AT 2:30 RACHMANINOFF

Academy of Music, Feb. 21 SATURDAY AFT. AT 2:30 THE "SUCH TRIO"



VIRGINIA HOWELL, "BEN HUR" Forrest



ETTA PILLARD, Trocadero

Pierrot Revue Scores Eve Hackett and Jerry Delaney, assisted by a bevy of vivacious girls, have scored a big success in "Pierrot Revue" on the Walton Roof. Singing the latest songs, such as "Dardanelles," "Say It With Flowers" and "Finest of Them All," and with pretty specialty dances, the cast creates an atmosphere similar to that of the roof revues in New York.

Frank Dobson Allen Rogers "13 SIRENS" "Fifteen Minutes of Concert"

Special Added MAY WIRTH with PHIL Assisted by "The Family" Feature Premier Riders of the World

Geo. ROCKWELL & FOX—Al. ROME & CULLEN The Aerial Lloyds VERA SABINA

TOTO Mae & Rose Wilton The Famous Clown Presenting "In Kewpeland"

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY Mat. Thurs. at 2:30 P. M. 25c, 50c, 75c and \$1.00

WALNUT Mat. Today at 2:30 25c to \$1.00 Evgs. at 8:30 25c to \$1.50

FISKE O'HARA DOWN LIMERICK WAY IN HIS BRIGHT ROMANTIC COMEDY OF LOVE, LAUGHTER AND LIFE

O'HARA'S NEW SONG HITS HAVE ALREADY CAUGHT THE TOWN "Down Limerick Way" "Dear Little Angel From Heaven" "If They'd Only Give Old Ireland to the Irish"

TWIN BEDS A COMEDY OF FUN AND FRIVOLOUSITY WITH LOIS BOLTON and the SPECIAL CAST

AMERICANIZATION FILM Stanley-Directed Theatres to Aid in Better Citizenship

Propaganda to aid in making better Americans out of aliens through the medium of the screen will begin in this city next week, when the initial Americanization production, "The Land of Opportunity," will be exhibited as an added attraction at the Stanley.

A series of films will be shown at all Stanley-directed theatres. President Jules Mastbaum, as soon as he heard that the Americanization committee, of which Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior, is chairman, would ask the aid of the motion-picture industry in using screens for the purpose of making better citizens, wired placing the use of all screens in Stanley Company

DUNBAR THEATRE BROAD AT LOMBARD Lafayette Colored Players THE MIRACLE MAN

Belmont 522 ST. BELOW MARKET Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday "THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE" Thursday, Friday, Saturday "WHAT'S YOUR HUSBAND DOING?"

Coliseum MARKET ST. BEL. 60TH C. REYNOLDS, Organist Monday and Tuesday "MY HUSBAND'S OTHER WIFE" Wednesday and Thursday "SIN OF THE MOTHER" Friday and Saturday "SIX BEST CELLARS" and "THE GARAGE"

Frankford Frankford Ave. & Margaretta St. Monday and Tuesday "DOROTHY DALTON" Wednesday and Thursday "THE WIFE'S PRISON" Friday and Saturday "SIX BEST CELLARS"—All-Star Cast

Academy of Music 19 Thursday Evening, Feb. 19 Recital by PERCY GRAINGER Famous Australian Pianist

New York Symphony ORCHESTRA Walter Damrosch, Conductor ACADEMY MUSIC, THURS. EVG., FEB. 26 SOLOIST LEVITZKI

Schumann Piano Concerto No. 3, Op. 52, at HEPP'S ACADEMY—Seats at Hepp's, 1119 Chestnut Philadelphia Orchestra TONIGHT AT 8:15

4 DANCING LESSONS \$5 A TEACHER FOR EACH PUPIL Individual Instruction Exclusive Method Mirrored Studio 1520 CHESTNUT OFFICE 800 LOCUST 8193 CORTISSOZ SCHOOL

PHILADELPHIA'S FOREMOST THEATRES FORREST LIMITED ENGAGEMENT—MONDAY NIGHT MATINEES WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY CURTAIN, NIGHTS AT 8—MATINEES AT 2 NO ONE SEATED DURING THE PRELUDE KLAW & ERLANGER'S NEW PRODUCTION OF THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST DRAMA BEN HUR 350 Living Actors in the Gorgeous Spectacle 350 20 Living Horses in the Blood-Quenching Chariot Race 20 PRICES NIGHTS (EXCEPT SAT.) AND SAT. MAT., 50c to \$2.00 SATURDAY NIGHT, 75c to \$2.50 POPULAR WEDNESDAY MATINEE, 50c to \$1.50

GARRICK 2 WEEKS ONLY OPENING MONDAY MATINEES WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY AT 2:15 EVENINGS AT 8:15 LET'S GO "OVER THE TOP" WITH ELSIE JANIS AND HER GANG in A Peach of a Show NY TIMES A BOMB-PROOF MUSICAL REVUE Coming! "Dere Mable" A big MARC KLAW musical production

BROAD NEXT WEEK POSITIVELY LAST WEEK MATINEE TODAY, TONIGHT AT 8:15 NIGHTS AT 8:15 WED. & SAT. AT 2:15 THE BROAD ROCKED WITH MERRIMENT LAST NIGHT WHEN MARIE DRESSLER RETURNED TO THE STAGE IN THE ROLE OF TILLIE. "—American THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMEDienne MARIE DRESSLER IN THE SEASON'S MUSICAL COMEDY SENSATION TILLIE'S NIGHTMARE A MERRY WHIRL OF FUN AND MUSIC WITH A WEALTH OF SONGS, DANCES AND MUSICAL NOVELTIES BIG FASHION SHOW DISPLAYED BY 20 CHORUS BEAUTIES "PLENTY OF REAL ENJOYMENT MAY BE ASSURED ALL WHO GO TO SEE MARIE DRESSLER IN 'TILLIE'S NIGHTMARE.'"—Bulletin. TWO WEEKS, BEGINNING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16 Robert B. Mantell

PHILADELPHIA BEGINNING MONDAY EVENING THE SELWYNS Present A Unique Laugh Upheaval, with a Romance "Rollo's Wild Oat" A New Comedy by CLARE KUMMER, Author of "Good Gracious Annabelle," "A Successful Calamity," etc. And This Cast of Super-excellence LOTUS ROBB, CECELIA YAPP, MARGARET SUMNER, JOHN IVAN KING, GEOFFREY DOUGLAS, ELINOR COX, MALCOLM DUNN, ALICE CHAPIN, JAMES R. WATERS, DOROTHY DORR, IVAN F. SIMPSON, CHARLES SELLON Same Cast and Production as to Be Presented Later in New York City.

WALNUT above 8TH ST. MAT. DAILY 10,000 Ladies Attend Weekly NEXT WEEK—JOE HURD'S NEW SOCIAL MAIDS WITH INA HAYWARD AND BLUCH LANDOLF

Norristown Operatic Society Presents Herbert's Opera "The Serenade" OPERA HOUSE, NORRISTOWN Feb. 9, 10, 11 HARRY A. SYKES Conductor Academy of Music, Feb. 21 SATURDAY AFT. AT 2:30 RACHMANINOFF Tickets, \$2.00 to 75c. Box Seats, \$2.50 On sale now at Hepp's, 1119 Chestnut Direction C. A. Ellis

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