

BEFORE THE CURTAIN GOES UP

Four Openings Next Week, With More to Come—Jolson, Elsie Ferguson, Sothern and Marlowe and Mask and Wig Land Variety

When a lot of people were beginning to pack away things theatrical in their minds for another season, and devote their mental energies to such untheatrical things as golf manuals, seed catalogs and time-tables, the Powers That Be changed their minds, and now it looks as if Philadelphia would have its playhouses open till the first of June.

An even stranger thing is that the remainder of the season will see a continuation of the interesting fact that has been mentioned in the city recently. It will include a number of widely divergent entertainments as melodramas, Russian grand opera, revue, fantastically play, drama and Shakespeare. There ought to be something there for all tastes.

Next Monday will see the opening of four new shows at downtown houses, another at the Metropolitan Opera House, and another at the Lyric Theatre.

E. H. Sothern and Julia Marlowe begin a two weeks' engagement of Shakespearean repertoire, the Lyric Theatre, opening on Monday with "The Merchant of Venice," which they have not given in some time.

Elsie Ferguson will appear at the Broad Theatre for two weeks in "The Varying Shore," which is by Zoe Akins, and will give Philadelphia theatregoers a chance for comparison with the same author's "The Tell Tales," which will be given for one week only at the Forrest Theatre.

Some people consider that a theatrical year isn't a year at all unless Al Jolson comes to town, and they'll welcome this black-and-white-face comedian in his latest, "Bombo," which opens a three-week engagement at the Adelphi.

Marlowe play here will be their last of the season and, in fact, for two seasons, as they are planning their every-other-season tour through the country. In the meantime it is just possible that one of the members of the company will try Shakespeare on his own account.

Frederick Lewis is the man, and he has for long been anxious to essay certain of the bard's roles, notably Hamlet. He did hope to do it this spring, and Mr. Sothern even offered him the entire scenery used by his company, but he had to put on a matinee performance in New York to show what he could do.

The Sothern supporting company was willing to lend Marlowe to help a fellow member, but the scheme fell through, probably to the miserable theatrical conditions. However, Mr. Lewis hopes to try again.

Sothern is one of those actors who tried the films and was abominably treated therein. It is not generally remembered that he did three pictures, two of them rather flat and the other, "An Enemy to the King," good romantic drama.

It will have been nine years since upon local stage. The last occasion was in "The Strange Woman," which he played at the Garrick. "Sacred and Profane Love," the drama made from Arnold Bennett's "Book of Carolita," in which Miss Ferguson returned to stage a year or so ago, never got to this city.

Her present vehicle, "The Varying Shore," is an elliptical sort of thing which starts at the present day and goes gradually to the lines and the like. Miss Ferguson, by the way, is to appear in a screen version of "Outcast," the Hubert Henry Davis play in which she scored so heavily.

Sothern's First Serious Role The first serious role played by E. H. Sothern, who with Julia Marlowe is at the Lyric Theatre next week in Shakespearean repertoire, was in Henry Girard's "The Dancing Girl," which Sothern was fearful of his reception by the public if he changed from comedy to drama.

Miss Ferguson's Stage Career The screen career of Elsie Ferguson, who will be seen in person beginning next Monday in "The Varying Shore" at the Broad Street Theatre, has eclipsed the memory of many facts connected with her recent success on the stage.

Uncommon Sense : There's Enough Room at the Bottom By JOHN BLAKE

IF THE top were the only place where there was room, nobody would ever get there.

STARS OF THE STAGE COMING HERE NEXT WEEK



ELSIE FERGUSON 'THE VARYING SHORE' Broad



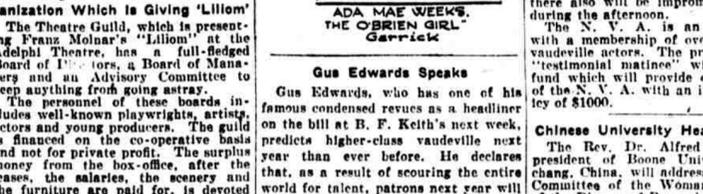
WALTER C. KELLY 'KEITH'S' Metropolitan



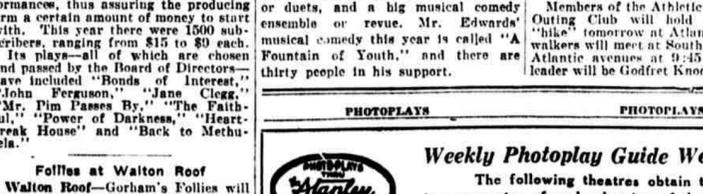
MARGARET MOBERLY LILLIOM 'ADELPHI' Adelphi



E. H. SOTHERN JULIA MARLOWE 'HAMLET' Lyric



AL JOLSON 'BOMBO' Shubert



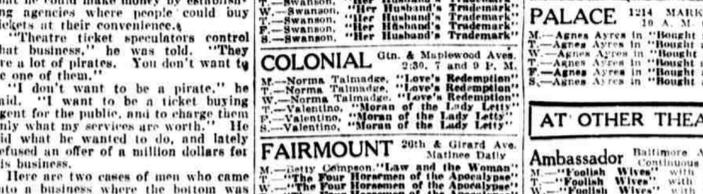
GUS EDWARDS 'THE O'BRIEN GIRL' Garrick



EMMA LAWRENCE 'CAPTAIN BRASSBOND'S CONVERSION' Little Theatre



GINNY HUSSEY 'SHUBERT' Shubert VAUDEVILLE



ADA MAE WEEKS 'THE O'BRIEN GIRL' Garrick



KAROL MILLER 'BRINGING UP FATHER' Metropolitan

Theatrical Billboard for the Coming Week

NEW ATTRACTIONS LYRIC — Shakespearean repertoire of Elsie Ferguson, opening Monday night and Saturday matinee.

BROAD — "The Varying Shore," drama, by Zoe Akins, author of "Declasse," with Elsie Ferguson, opening Monday night and Saturday matinee.

SHUBERT — "Bombo," comedy extravaganza using life and voyages of Columbus as background, by E. M. Lauder, starring Al Jolson.

METROPOLITAN — "Bringing Up Father in Wall Street," latest of series of musical comedies based on George S. Kaufman's "Bringing Up Father," by Al Jolson and Alice Dudley.

VAUDEVILLE CHESTNUT STREET OPERA HOUSE — "The Varying Shore," drama, by Zoe Akins, author of "Declasse," with Elsie Ferguson, opening Monday night and Saturday matinee.

WALKING CLUB TO START HIKE Members of the Athletic Walking and Outing Club will hold their weekly "hike" tomorrow at Atlantic City.

CHINESE UNIVERSITY HEAD TO SPEAK The Rev. Dr. Alfred A. Gilman, president of Boone University, will address the Women's Auxiliary of the Diocese of Pennsylvania in Holy Trinity parish house Wednesday morning.

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ATLANTIC CITY COMFORT WITHOUT EXTRAVAGANCE HOTEL SILVERTON

ABOUT THE THEATRE GUILD

Presenting a Few Facts About Organization Which is Giving 'Lilliom' The Theatre Guild, which is presenting Franz Molnar's "Lilliom" at the Adelphi Theatre, has a full-fledged Board of Directors.

The personnel of these boards includes well-known playwrights, artists, actors and young producers. The guild is financed by the co-operative basis and not for private profit.

The Theatre Guild is not endowed. It is self-made and self-supporting. Its members become subscribers to the performance, thus assuring the producing firm a certain amount of money to start with.

Officers at Walton Roof Walton Roof—Gurham & Follies will be entirely changed as to numbers and principals.

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TO HOLD BENEFIT MATINEE

Show to Aid Vaudeville Artists Here April 21 A special benefit matinee, which will be participated in by more than 600 theatres in the United States and Canada, will be held on Friday, April 21.

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Weekly Photoplay Guide Week of Apr. 17 to Apr. 22. Subject to Change

Table with columns for theatre names and photoplay titles. Includes: APOLLO 52D & THOMPSON BLS., GREAT NORTHERN, REGENCY, RIALTO, SHERWOOD, STANLEY MARKET, STANTON, VICTORIA, PALACE, OVERBROOK, PALACE, COLONIAL, FAIRMOUNT, 56TH ST., GERMANTOWN, PARK RIDGE, JEFFERSON, 69TH ST., STRAND.

AT OTHER THEATRES, MEMBERS OF M. P. T. O. A.

Table with columns for theatre names and photoplay titles. Includes: Ambassador, Germantown, Park Ridge, Jefferson, 69th St, Strand.

THEATRE LISTINGS: BELMONT 52D ABOVE MARKET, CEDAR 90TH & CEDAR AVENUE, COLISEUM, JUMBO FRONT ST. & GIRARD AVE, LEADER 41ST & LANCASTER AVE, LOCUST 52D AND LOCUST STREETS, NIXON 52D AND MARKET STS., RIVOLI 41ST AND RANSON STS., 69TH ST., STRAND.