

BEFORE THE CURTAIN GOES UP

Honor Role of Season's Attractions—Ten Best Named. Change to Come in "Letty" Cast—Last Week of "Welcome Stranger"

JUST as the baseball fan likes to sit around the fire of a winter evening trying to recapture in reminiscent talk the thrills of last season's games, so the dried-in-the-wool theatregoer, deprived of amusement fare of this sort during the summer months, is inclined to mull them over, compare them and pick the best of them.

WITHOUT falling back on figures or statistics, except so far as to say that the seven downtown so-called "legitimate" houses had among them seventy-three shows, two of which went away and came back for second visits, a hasty retrospect will adequately cover the situation.

To list the entire seventy-three shows, with comment on each, would be unprofitable and a tiresome and thankless piece of work. On the other hand, a strict and mechanical limitation of "ten best shows" would of necessity leave out so many worthy attractions that this, too, is unfair.

Striking a middle course, as is fit appended of the outstanding productions, with a word or so about each, thus forming a "Best" list can be drawn.

At the Adelphi— "The Bat," melodrama, by Avery Hopwood and Mary Roberts Rinehart, possessing the saving grace of a sense of humor (provided by the feminine end of the authorship, evidently) and, which all is said and done, the "daddy" of the new crop of mystery plays.

"Lillom," remarkable fantastical play, by Franz Molnar, like a broken bar of Brahms music on a summer night. Galvanically acted.

"A Bill of Divorcement," very dignified and quite English drama, presenting a question of heredity that was not pleasant, but was powerful.

"Mary Rose," exquisitely Barrie, with just a bit too many "ghosts" toward the end. A proof that Ruth Chatterton has "come out of the kitchen."

"The East-End Way," a revival, and so not by rights entitled to be on the "best ten," but actually the best of the lot. The American playwright's challenge to the foreign prestige. Acting that cut to the bone.

"The White-Headed Boy," belonging to the "earth-earthly" school, and an honor pupil, too. A comedy of Irish character that was lived, not acted.

"The Golden Diggers," Hopwood and Barrie, melodrama, with Belasco staging; a farce that grew into a character study.

STARS OF THE STAGE PLAYING HERE NEXT WEEK



CHAELENE ESSELY, and OLIVE KING "Letty Pepper" Walnut



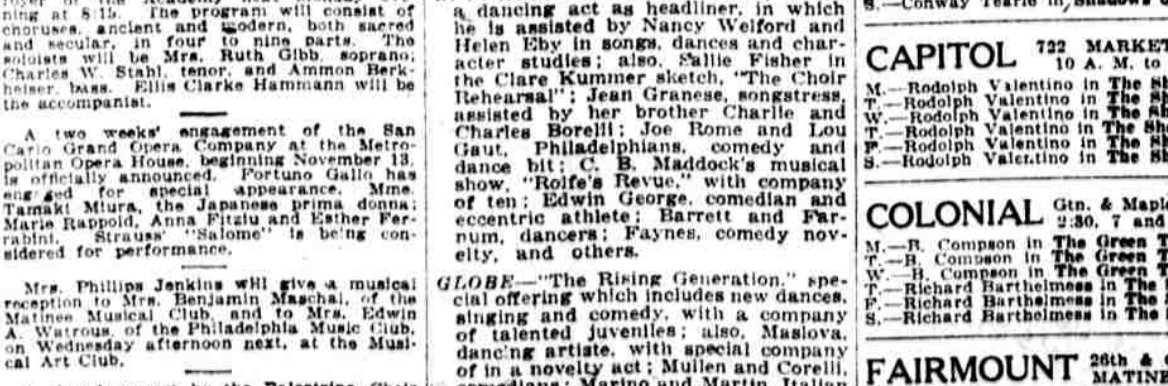
SALLIE FISHER, Walnut



MAE DESMOND, Stock, Cross Keys



HARRISON GILMORE, Stock, Broadway



BURT SHEPPARD, Walnut

DREAMLAND ADVENTURES

The Poor but Proud Sisters. By DADDY

Janet turned into a Fairy God-mother and Jack turned into a jolly goblin each to help three sisters jolly fame and fortune.

CHAPTER VI Fortune Smiles at Last JANET waved her hand at Brown Thrasher, Bussy Bee and Fussy-Legs Spider.

"Thank you, Brown Thrasher, for teaching me that it is better to sing songs that fit her voice, instead of trying songs that are beyond her. Thank you, Bussy Bee, for teaching Matilda it is better to bake good pies than to try everything in the cook book. Thank you, Fussy-Legs Spider, for teaching Rose Marie it is better to make dainty lace well than to make whole dresses badly."

Jack led the way to the palace-like house where the mother and two daughters were still walling over the silken dress goods Rose Marie had spoiled in trying to make party frocks. Rose Marie was afraid to go near the house, as she feared the anger of the mother and two daughters.

"Pretext you are a gyp and offer to sell them your lace, and I'll dress you to Rose Marie. And that is what Rose Marie did. Covering her face with a scarf and pretending to be a gyp, she displayed her lace before the mother and two daughters.

"Oh, what exquisite lace," cried the mother and two daughters. "We can use this on our party gowns, and cover up the damage done by the dress Rose Marie's lace, and paid a high price for it. 'Bring us all the lace you can make,'" cried the mother. "My husband owns a store and he will make you rich and famous."

Rejoicing over Rose Marie's good fortune, the party went on to the bake shop. There they found the baker sound asleep in a chair.

As he slept Matilda made pies—apple, cherry, mince, pumpkin, chocolate and coconut pies. These pies she baked until they were crisp and dainty. As she opened the oven door most appetizing odors filled the bake shop. The odors awoke the baker. He sat up, his nose twitching. He saw the pies all in a row and he jumped from his chair and tasted one.

"What marvelous pies!" he cried. He turned eagerly to Matilda, who had covered her face with her apron so he would not know her. "I will make you my partner," he said. "You shall make pies, and I shall bake cakes and cookies and biscuits. Together we shall gain fame and riches through our cookery."

The party went on until they came to the opera house. Anne did not go with them, but stood outside in some bushes, keeping well within the powers of her voice. And she sang so delightfully that soon the head of the fat manager popped out of his window.

"Who is that singing?" he cried. "I will give you \$1000 a week to sing it in vaudeville." Anne was so much excited over the offer that she could only gasp. The manager thought she was declining his offer. "I will make it \$2000 a week," he cried. Then she gasped again, he raised his bid. "Three thousand dollars a week," he cried. "I'll take it," cried Anne, and she hurried into the office to sign the contracts.

WILHELMIN. CHESTNUT STREET BELOW 18TH STREET. VAUDEVILLE OF LASTING QUALITY. Next Week—The International Dancing Star and Producer. Introducing NANCY WELFORD and MELVIN KEY. "ROLFE'S REVUE" EDWIN GEORGE. JEAN GRANESE JOE ROME & LOU GAY. BARRETT & FARNUM. SALLIE FISHER.

CROSS KEYS 60th Street and Market. MAE DESMOND and Her Players in "EXPERIENCE". A LOVE STORY WITH HER TRIALS BY INFORMATION. 10 BIG SCENES. 40 PEOPLE IN CAST. Augmented Orchestra. MAY 27TH—"THAT GIRL PATSY"—NEXT WEEK.

BROADWAY BROAD & SNYDER. EDNA HIBBARD, LEON GORDON. THE BROADWAY STOCK COMPANY. MAY 29—BROADWAY STOCK COMPANY IN "THE BEAT".

ALDINE "THE SILENT CALL". WALTON RATH BROTHERS. PHILMATEAN SOCIETY PLAY "OLD FORTUNATUS". ALL THIS WEEK. TICKETS AT GIMBELS.

Weekly Photoplay Guide Week of May 22 to May 27. Subject to Change. The following theatres obtain their pictures through the STANLEY Company of America, which is a guarantee of early showing of the finest productions. Ask for the theatre in your locality obtaining pictures through the Stanley Company of America.

THE CRITIC TALKS TO MUSIC LOVERS

WHILE, with the accession of the ballot, women have made an impressive entry into American politics, especially in our own State, as indicated by the primary elections of last Tuesday, there is one field in which they seem not to have risen nearly so high as in most of the others and that is the field of musical composition.

Nevertheless women have composed an astonishing number of works in the larger forms, especially in the symphony and the opera. Their work invariably shows grace and refinement, but practically always lacks the power and grandeur which is the hallmark of the great composer.

America has produced some other very talented women composers, among them Margaret Ruthven Lang in the opera, and Gertrude Stein in the latter as a pianist overshadowing her fame as a composer.

THE interpretive side, where women have pretty well held their own with men as players upon certain instruments and as singers—and by singing in the most artistic side of singing, and not merely the possession of a wonderful voice which has been highly cultivated, as has been the case of some recent stars.

MUSIC NOTES. The choir of the Second Presbyterian Church under the direction of N. Lindsay Church will give a public concert in the foyer of the Academy next Monday evening.

ALLEGHENY—Charles Ahearn company of comedians will be next week's headliners at the Grand Opera House. The company includes the popular picture artist, also, Barnum, mystery writer, and comedian, Bobby Barnum.

"IOLANTHE" NEXT WEEK

Gilbert and Sullivan Opera at the Broad; Also by Radio. "Iolanthe," the Gilbert and Sullivan fairy opera, will be presented at the Broad Street Theatre next Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, May 25, 26 and 27, by the Savoy Opera Company, of this city.

The cast contains the following: Miss Marie Zera, Phyllis; Mrs. George P. Millington, Iolanthe; Mrs. Anne Geyer, Fairy Queen; Leslie L. Joy, Lord Montararat; John Clark Sims, Jr., Sentry; Nelson Eddy, Strophon, and Frank Ward, Chancellor.

APOLLO 522 & THOMPSON STS. MATINEE DAILY. IMPERIAL 60TH & WALNUT STS. MATINEE DAILY.

ARCADIA CHESTNUT BEL 16TH 10 A. M. to 11:15 P. M. ASTOR EIGHTH & GIRARD AVE. MATINEE DAILY.

BALTIMORE DIST. & BALTIMORE AVE. 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 P. M. BLUEBIRD Broad & Susquehanna Continuous 2 until 11.

CAPITOL 722 MARKET STREET 10 A. M. to 11:15 P. M. COLONIAL 6th & Maplewood Aves. 2:30, 7:30, 9:30 P. M.

Theatrical Billboard for the Coming Week

Show That Remain. WALNUT—"Letty Pepper," Morocco musical comedy with Charlotte Greenwood.

Stock. CROSS KEYS—"Experience," George F. Johnson's modern musical play with Frank Fielder as "Youth" and Mae Desmond playing the three varied roles of "Love," "Fidelity" and "Intoxication"; other members of the cast: Wilson, Collinson-Bortman, Harrison Hoffman, comedy, telling of the adventures of a Jewish merchant in a strict little New England town; Werner Janssen.

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COLONIAL 6th & Maplewood Aves. 2:30, 7:30, 9:30 P. M. FAIRMOUNT 26th & Girard Aves. MATINEE DAILY.

GREAT NORTHERN Broad St. at Erie. JEFFERSON 50th & Dauphin Sts. 2:30, 7:30, 9:30 P. M.