

Current Week in Leading Washington Theaters Looms Large with Interest

"THE YELLOW JACKET" IS HIGHLY INDORSED

Florence Reed Makes First Appearance Here as a Star in "The Painted Woman."

By JULIA CHANDLER MANE.

The theatrical week upon which we enter to-morrow night looms large with interest, bringing to Washington that poetic and enigmatic Chinese play, "The Yellow Jacket," about which we have been hearing so much; "The Painted Woman," a new William A. Brady production which had its premier in Baltimore last week, and the return of Frances Starr in "The Case of Becky."

In anticipation of "The Yellow Jacket" at the Columbia this week, the bulletin of the playing committee of the Washington Center of the Drama League, urging lovers of the theater to see this remarkable Chinese play during its Washington engagement, circulating the unstinted praise of the piece as voiced by the Macdowell Club, of New York, through its committee on drama, and others of the league's New York advisers.

"The Yellow Jacket" is the joint work of George C. Hazelton and J. Harry Demingo. Mr. Hazelton is a lawyer who has been best known to the stage as the author of "Mistress Nell," in which Henrietta Crossman made her greatest success. Before he reached the voting age he appeared in a small part with Booth and Modjeska, where he obtained the rudiments of his dramatic education. Later he lived for a time in San Francisco. His father, who was a member of Congress, had to deal with problems touching Chinese immigration and Mr. Hazelton found plenty of chance to study the Chinese from Li Hung Chang and Wu Ting-fang, down to the coolie.

When Mr. Beronio, who lived in China when a boy, and who speaks the language, came to New York with "The First Form," he and Mr. Hazelton became friends and they agreed to collaborate on "The Yellow Jacket," which was named, by the way, in honor of Mr. Hazelton's friend, Li Hung Chang.

"The Painted Woman," which William A. Brady is bringing to the Belasco this week in the work of Frederick Arnold Kummer, a Marylander, by present right of residence. The piece, which is said to be a revival of the romantic melodrama, serves to introduce Florence Reed as a star. She is the daughter of the late Roland Reed, whose opposition to a stage career for his beautiful young daughter acted as a restraint upon her ambitions until after his death. The "Painted Woman" who plays the exacting role of "Hamon," must not be confused with the musical comedy player of the same name. The Brady star hails from Philadelphia, where she was educated at the Convent of the Sacred Heart. Her first stage experience was gained with E. H. Sothern, after which she received a thorough stock schooling, mixing as far West as the Pacific Coast, later returning to the East, where she won recognition through her characterization of Ann Brown in "Seven Days." Miss Reed has recently been playing in "The Master in the House."

Frances Starr, who is distinctly a product of the Belasco method, returns to the New National Theater this week in "The Case of Becky," a stage characterization which ranks among the most notable achievements of our American drama.

When seven years ago Miss Starr was playing the leading feminine role with David Warfield in "The Music Master," her magnificent youth and beauty made a strong appeal to the theater-going public, and was so convincing to Mr. Belasco that one day he sent for Mr. Warfield's little leading lady to call at his office. During her engagement in this city last season in "The Case of Becky," Miss Starr described her sensation upon receiving Mr. Belasco's summons as the most dramatic moment in her life—and such it proved to be, for the interview was the beginning of her real career. Months were spent in making ready for her first important role, laudible in "The Case of Becky," which, from its first presentation, was a distinct success. Then came "The East-West Way," which meant harder work for Mr. Belasco's new luminary than ever, but she emerged from it triumphant, glorifying both herself and her amateur manager.

In "The Case of Becky," Miss Starr is playing the most exacting role of her stage life; one which calls for the display of dual personality. She portrays two distinct characters, manifested in one body—a personality with two entirely different selves—one sweet, lovable, refined, and beautiful; the other cold, hard, vicious and cunning. One of these selves gains the mastery over the other, which makes the story of Edward Locke's remarkable play.

We are to have this week at the Academy the first presentation of William Vaughn Moody's play, "The Great Divide," by a metropolitan company at popular prices, which recalls an amusing circumstance in the premier production of the piece at the Belasco Theater, September 17, 1906, with Margaret Anglin and Henry Miller as co-stars. Washington dramatic writers who were among the "first-nighters" were so depressed by the disagreeable theme of the play as to not themselves capable of talking to the public of little else. Believing the critics to be in error, Mr. Miller took the piece immediately to New York where it ran for six months in Daly's Theater, receiving the stamp of New York approval. For one night, March 4, 1907, "The Great Divide" was brought back to Washington by way of impressing those who had previously felt for the production with how very little their opinions amounted to after all!

The announcement that Charles B. Hanford, R. D. MacLean, Odette Tyler, and Marie Rodolph will come to the Columbia Theater next week in classic Shakespearean repertoire calls once more to our attention the most successful rival of Shakespeare this season. Already we have had Sothern and Marlowe for two weeks, William Faversham in his splendid revival of "Julius Caesar" for one week, and following the MacLean-Hanford engagement we are yet to have Robert Mantell.

Aside from Shakespearean revivals, which make their own peculiar appeal, standing in a class apart, Washington does not want clean drama if we are to believe a statement made to me last



SCENE FROM "THE CASE OF BECKY," NATIONAL



MAUDE KLOTZ SOLOIST WITH MINNEAPOLIS ORCHESTRA NATIONAL FEB 20



MARIE RAPPOLD BELASCO-TONIGHT



ZEILA SHAW ACADEMY



SCENE FROM "THE YELLOW JACKET," COLUMBIA



FRANKIE RICE LYCEUM



MARGIE HILTON GAYETY



F.A. KUMMER, AUTHOR "THE PRINTED WOMAN" BELASCO. FLORENCE REED IN BELASCO.

week by a prominent local manager who backed his argument with the fact that "Ready Money," that bright, clean, clever comedy, by James Montgomery, played to practically small audiences for the most part of last week, while the Gertrude Hoffman Revue, which preceded it, filled the Belasco to overflowing. Give us serious thought to the matter if you please!

The Week's Play Bills.

Columbia—"The Yellow Jacket."

Not since Maude Adams made her temporary and personal success in "Peter Pan" has any play won the enthusiastic and complete approval accorded "The Yellow Jacket," which comes to the Columbia this week. This Chinese play, which has just finished a four months' run at the Fulton Theater, New York, has been acclaimed as the most unique and unusual dramatic piece seen on Broadway within the memory of the oldest inhabitant. Described on the programme as "A Chinese play done in the Chinese manner," it is redolent of all the mystery and charm of the East.

It was written by George C. Hazelton, author of "Mistress Nell" and "Ben-rimo," who for twelve years was the leading actor and stage director for David Belasco.

The story of the play has to do with the governor of a province, who has two wives and wishes to get rid of one, the mother of his only child, in order that he may more fully possess himself of the second wife. In the second act this infant son has grown to manhood and is forced to contend with his half-brother, the Dafoodi, in order to reclaim his position in life, to establish himself in the estimation of his subjects and to gain the hand of Fium Blossom, the girl whom he loves.

The company which presents the play in this city is the identical company which has appeared in it ever since its New York opening, early in the fall. In this company are Thomas Jackson, Signor Paragini, David Powell, Antoinette Walker, Saxone Morland, Reginald Barlow, Grace Barlow, Mark Price, Juliette Day, J. Arthur Young, Schuyler Ladd, Fanny Addison Pitt, and twenty others.

Belasco—"The Painted Woman."

Lovers of the romantic drama will have their desires abundantly satisfied this week at the Belasco, when William A. Brady's production of "The Painted Woman" will be presented for the first time in this city. It is a true to life

story, teeming with the codes, social and otherwise, that had a vogue back in the sixteenth century. Every detail, with a view of making "The Painted Woman" historically correct, show the skillful hand of William A. Brady, who is well versed in mounting plays of this or any other period.

The leading role, has been entrusted to Florence Reed, whose charming personality and capabilities as an actress serve her in good stead.

Charles Waldron has the leading male role well in hand. The same can be said of Geoffrey C. Stein, a forceful character actor, and Gaston Mervale, the tyrannical lover, who injects an individuality into the character of "The Firebrand" that is commendable.

The surrounding company is an exceptionally large one.

National—Frances Starr in "The Case of Becky."

"The Case of Becky," one of the most famous of the productions of David Belasco, and the most notable contribution of the English-speaking stage to the fascinating problem of dual personality, is to be seen at the National this week. It was written by George C. Hazelton, and Coit Robertson is featured in the role of "The Dreamer." Six Broadway dancing artists are "The Girls of the Dream," each personifies the typical girl and the popular dance of one of the periods ranging from the days of the crinoline skirt to the modern hobble.

The extra added comedy feature will be Jack Kennedy, who succeeded Clifton Crawford in "The Three Twins." With Virginia Reynolds and Chaucer Moore assisting, he will present "A Business Proposal." Another special stellar inclusion will be the popular comedian, Frank North and company in the "simple life" sketch, "Back to Wellington."

Maxim's Parisian Art Models will offer beautiful living facemasks of the celebrated paintings.

The comedy trio, James Conlin, Lillian Steele, and Eddie Carr, will offer the "batty frolic," "Just from College."

names as Charles Dalton, Albert Bruning, Mary Lawton, Eugene O'Brien, Harry C. Brown, and John Brann.

Chase's—Polite Vaudeville.

"The Dance Dream," direct from its successful New York premiere, will be the headline attraction at Chase's this week. It was suggested by the famous novel, "Reveries of a Bachelor," and Coit Robertson is featured in the role of "The Dreamer." Six Broadway dancing artists are "The Girls of the Dream," each personifies the typical girl and the popular dance of one of the periods ranging from the days of the crinoline skirt to the modern hobble.

The extra added comedy feature will be Jack Kennedy, who succeeded Clifton Crawford in "The Three Twins." With Virginia Reynolds and Chaucer Moore assisting, he will present "A Business Proposal." Another special stellar inclusion will be the popular comedian, Frank North and company in the "simple life" sketch, "Back to Wellington."

Maxim's Parisian Art Models will offer beautiful living facemasks of the celebrated paintings.

The comedy trio, James Conlin, Lillian Steele, and Eddie Carr, will offer the "batty frolic," "Just from College."

lips and Zeila Shaw in the leading roles.

The story of "The Great Divide" tells a thrilling tale of savage love, primitive emotions, dissolute companions, and the awakening of a woman's heart for a regenerated brute of a man whom she was forced to marry for the sake of protection.

This is the play which Mr. Belasco chose as the starring vehicle for Charlotte Walker. The leading masculine role, that of Agatha's father, Gen. Warren, which will be played this week by Mark Kent, was originated by Frank Keenan.

A. H. Van Buren will be seen as Lieut. Burton, the Union officer in love with Agatha, the Southern girl. The action of the piece takes place during the most stirring period of the civil war. Here are battles, captures, attacks on supply trains and adventures with spies and scouts. On one occasion the future of the Army of Virginia seems to depend upon Agatha Warren who has an important dispatch hidden in her shoe, a

sweetheart, Lieut. Burton. The conflict between love and duty is intense throughout the drama. The episode takes place five years after the war when Agatha and Lieut. Burton meet in Agatha's rose-garden.

Important roles are Sappho, the colored mammy, played by Helen Tracey; Mrs. Warren, by Lolla Linthum; Bob and Betty, the Warren children, played by Master Foster Williams and Miss Bondhill; Tom Dabney, by Graham Volsey, and Gen. Griffin, by Thomas Williams.

Gaiety—"The Midnight Maidens."

A sparkling musical surprise is promised at the Gaiety this week when William S. Clark's "Midnight Maidens" will be seen in two elaborate musical farces, "Honeymoon" and "Cupid." In the company are three brides and bridegrooms, the chief fun of the piece arising from the fact that all three couples are intent upon keeping their marriage a secret. In the afterpiece, "Cupid," a number of new songs and effective dancing ensembles are introduced.

Chief among the funmakers are Elmer Tenley and Bob Van Osten, the latter known as the "duck-nose comedian." Margie Hilton, a talented Washington actress, leads the feminine cast, assisted by Clara Burg and Edna Siegel. One of the specialties of the entertainment is "One Round" O'Brien, the prize fighter, who offers to knock out any contestant in one round, posting a forfeit of \$25 for any one who stays the limit.

MUSICAL EVENTS OF THE CURRENT WEEK

Mrs. Marie Rappold at the Belasco To-night. Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra at the National Thursday.

Mrs. Marie Rappold, prima donna soprano of the New York Metropolitan Opera Company, who is to appear in concert at the Belasco Theater to-night, has won fame in the field of grand opera, not only as a vocalist of wonderful qualities of her voice, but also of her superior ability in acting the roles she sings.

Mrs. Rappold is to be assisted in her concert to-night by Mr. Thomas Farmer, the American baritone, who has been scoring immense successes in his appearance with the prima donna on the present Southern tour just ended. So enthusiastic was the reception for Mr. Farmer at Richmond, Va., that numerous requests have been made to his management for a reappearance there in a concert, alone, at an early date.

The Programme.

- Prize from "El Pallador".....Lennon
- (a) "Carmen's Lied".....Solbert
- (b) "Waldemar".....Max Bayer
- (c) "The Rose".....Lennon
- (d) "Cher Nili".....Rachet
-Mrs. Rappold
- (a) In quillo vine, "In Those Hills (Carmen)"....."Mason Levent".....Pantini
- (b) "Viel d'Arto" ("Love and Mistr")....."Tosca".....Pantini
- (c) Aria from "Lakme".....Dallies
- (d) "The Rose".....Lennon
- (e) "Stephen, See The Heron's Plume".....Korber
-Mrs. Rappold
- (a) "Call Me No More".....Chas. Wakefield Odman
- (b) "Retreat".....Frank La Fuge
- (c) "The Rose".....Lennon
- (d) "Early Morn".....Hallett Gilmore
- (e) "Off Here I See the Swift Swallow".....Dell Angus

*Written for and dedicated to Mrs. Rappold by the composer.

Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra. The long-anticipated return engagement of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra, under the leadership of Emil Oberhoff, its organizer, is set for Thursday afternoon at the New National.

The event Thursday, beginning at 4:30 o'clock, will be made noteworthy by reason of the two soloists who will be presented. One is Maude Klotz, a young soprano of the West, who has attained international fame in less than two years. She is to sing Puccini's aria, "Un bel di vedremo" from "Madama Butterfly." Cornelia van Vliet is an old-established favorite, having long since won his way into the hearts of music patrons by his mastery handling of the solo. He is to play "O cara memoria," a theme and variations by Servais. Numbers announced for the orchestra itself, include Wagner's "Overture to Rienzi," the Beethoven Symphony, No. 1, in E minor, and the Lieber symphony poem, "Les Preludes." T. Arthur Smith, who originally brought the orchestra to this city, is again managing the local engagement.

Finlayson Quartet March 1.

The unquestioned popularity of the Finlayson Quartet is made apparent in the announcement made this morning by T. Arthur Smith that the demand for seats has compelled him to seek larger quarters for the final concert of the season by this popular organization. As a consequence the concert originally announced for Saturday afternoon, March 1, at 4:30 o'clock, in the ballroom of the New Willard Hotel, will be given in the Masonic Auditorium, at the corner of Thirteenth Street and New York Avenue, on the same date and at the same hour. A further announcement that will be generally welcomed by students of stringed instruments and chamber music is the fact that the program for two weeks capacity a more liberal scale of prices will be announced.

DAVID BELASCO HAS FAITH IN NEW AUTHORS

Edward Locke, who wrote "The Case of Becky," which comes to the National this week, has only one other play to his credit. This is "The Climax," a little drama with a big idea. Mr. Belasco accepted the production, because Mr. Starr because it also had a big idea, bigger, he thought, than almost any other play in recent years, excepting "The Return of Peter Grimm." When it was first submitted to Mr. Belasco, however, it boasted little else than the idea, but this was so original and offered such opportunities for situations and characterization that Mr. Belasco took the young author in hand and for two weeks worked with him until Miss Starr's play was finished.

This is one instance of Mr. Belasco's faith in new authors. When "The East-West Way" was accepted from Eugene Walter he had done nothing else of importance except "Paid in Full." This was an excellent drama, but it was "The East-West Way" as produced by Mr. Belasco with Miss Starr in the leading role, that established young Mr. Walker among the important writers for the American stage.

One of the reigning Belasco successes at various great moments is "The Woman." When Frances Starr played "The Rose of the Rancho" its author was Richard Walton Kelly, at that time quite unknown. John Luther Long had been for years a well-known writer of Japanese stories, but he had no position as a dramatist until his collaboration with Mr. Belasco on "The Darling of the Gods."

Just now Mr. Belasco is especially in the market for new plays by new authors. He has undertaken a series of productions in connection with his young son-in-law, William Elliott. The first of these to reach actually has lately been produced in New York. "The Governor's Lady," and was by Alice Bradley, another new author to Mr. Belasco's credit and to the credit of his service to the American stage.

THE PROPERTY MAN IN "THE YELLOW JACKET"

Every year some part in some play strikes out for new actors or some actress, because it is the property man. The most remarkable part in "The Yellow Jacket," which comes to the Columbia this week is that of the property man. On evening performances the curtain rises up at 11 and stays there until 11:30. Throughout this time the property man is never off the stage. And throughout this time he never speaks a line. He is the comedy hit of the show. The property man is an invisible. He is supposed to be seen by neither the actors nor the audience. In China, where the play would be presented in Chinese, he would be utterly unnoticed, so far as laughter or applause is concerned. In this country the very idea of a person being invisible is so absurd, he is seen all the time by the whole audience in itself laughable. Therefore, he becomes a comedy character.

WHAT THE WEEK OFFERS.

COLUMBIA	"The Yellow Jacket"
BELASCO	"The Painted Woman"
NATIONAL	Frances Starr, in "The Case of Becky"
CHASE'S	Polite Vaudeville
ACADEMY	"The Great Divide"
POLIS	"The Warrens of Virginia"
GAYETY	"The Midnight Maidens"
COSEMO	Vaudeville
CASINO	Vaudeville
LYCEUM	"The Yankee Doodle Girls"
GARDEN	Feature Films

Continued on Page Eleven.