

Britain Awakening "Homespun Folks," "Sweet Lavender" and "Curtain" Among New Pictures

Miss Rose Unsell, Scenario Writer, Tells Attitude of Audiences Abroad.

"England is at last awakening to the merits of motion pictures, according to Miss Rose Unsell, one of the chief scenario writers of the Famous Players-Lasky organization. She has just returned from a stay of thirteen months abroad, organizing the scenario department of the new Famous Players-Lasky British Producers and acquiring some of the most beautiful pictures I have ever seen, having attained their effect by sacrificing half the length of the film in order to project their pictures on the silver screen from the rear.

"The British houses, while not of the huxtorian type, are improving all the time. Besides having devoted the big Hammerstein Opera House in London exclusively to pictures, they are buying ground for buildings designed entirely for the cinema, though they are hampered by the building restrictions.

"The audiences prefer American made photoplays, their own industry having suffered severely through the war. They like our cowboy plays and our melodramas, and are still fond of Charlie Chaplin. Curiously enough, plays about the nobility don't seem to interest them so much as problem dramas, for British audiences prefer to think about their pictures rather than be entertained. They have no use for sentimental pieces, unless they are carried along by a strong story.

"Granville Barker, I heard, was taking up the movies, and if he does so he will probably do artistic work of the type the English like. Other English playwrights and novelists of prominence are becoming more and more interested about the films, though professional scenario writers are almost unknown there. Arnold Bennett and Edward Knoblock have already done good work, studying the technique of their pictures and writing directly for the pictures. Henry Arthur Jones' work has also been excellent, for he is a fine craftsman.

"E. G. Wells was at first rather diffident, feeling that pictures were somewhat trivial, but now he has gone so far as to say that if the inspiration came to him he would write a story for the cinema. He is now in London, but when the opportunity came he had to leave for Russia to make an unofficial investigation of Bolshevism. Later he is coming to America, probably in the spring. Of all the literary celebrities I met Wells struck me as being the greatest intellectually. I'm sure that when he does apply his mind to the picture he will give us some very fine dramas.

"The films are proving a great toy for Sir James M. Barry, for the photographic illusions give him scope for his fancies. He is working on a play for the camera now. Rudyard Kipling is remotely interested, though the loss of his son in the war has left him broken physically.

"Bernard Shaw is becoming interested enough to grow sarcastic and ask for figures—not a bad sign. He has come to the conclusion that it is not possible to have a good story on the screen—provided the director keeps his hands off. Directors over there haven't yet had the opportunity to develop as they have here.

"Royalty is becoming very interested in motion pictures, and something new has arisen in the way of 'command' performances at the palace—for pictures. Dowager Queen Alexandra has been largely devoted to them, and has felt it keenly because her physicians have advised her recently not to see photo plays for a time for the sake of her eyes. She has given Alex Steyn her special representative, a list of her favorites, who are Mary Pickford, Pauline Frederick and the Gish sisters, which she wants to see again as soon as she is able."

Lakewood Active for Autumn Season
LAKEWOOD, Oct. 2.—With the opening of the Laurel House yesterday this resort began what promises to be a very successful season. The Laurel in the Pines this year established a precedent in keeping open all summer. The results were gratifying, presenting a time when Lakewood was better known as a summer resorting place as it is a winter resort.

Another feature attending the autumn season was the annual Thanksgiving Club of Lakewood. For the last eighteen months a corps of workmen have been busy laying out an entirely new course over the old links, and while the work is not entirely completed, sojourners are playing sixteen hole rounds. The remaining holes will be finished by November 15. This will enable the club to play the full eighteen holes during the season. The new clubhouse, which has not been held for two years. Until such time as the club builds the new clubhouse, which probably will be begun next spring, club quarters will be in the Clinton cottage, adjoining the links.

Regular season sojourners were struck by the real estate and building activity which is going on and has been in progress during the summer. Aside from the several new hotels and boarding houses which have been erected there are three large tracts which are being developed for residential purposes. These are restricted residential sites and as soon as the new houses are complete there will be a large addition to the usual cottage contingent.

With the weather has not entirely lost its touch of summer, it is sufficiently autumn like to encourage the out of door sports, such as riding, boating, tennis and golf. Fishing in Barnegat Bay is at its best.

Many of the season sojourners who have their winter homes here already have arrived. Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Lynch are at Lynx Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lathrop Pack are at Lathrop Hall, Mr. and Mrs. George Gould have Georgian Court open and plan to spend much of the autumn here, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel D. Davis and Miss Agnes Helen Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Francis D. Hoyt, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Carberry Ritchie have opened their residences, while Mr. and Mrs. George Fales Baker, Mr. and Mrs. W. Wilcox, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tifford, Mrs. Robert A. Carberry Ritchie, Mrs. Martha and Margaret Jamison are expected in a short time.



MISS BEBE DANIELS AND JACK MULHALL IN "YOU NEVER CAN TELL" RIVOLI



MISS GLADYS GEORGE IN "HOMESPUN FOLKS" CAPITOL



MISS MARY MILES MINTER IN "SWEET LAVENDER" RIALTO



MISS LILLIAN GISH IN "WAY DOWN EAST" 44TH ST. THEATRE

Attractive Photo Plays to Be Seen in Local Theatres This Week.

"Homespun Folks," first production, prepared for the Associated Producers by Thomas H. Ince has been selected this week as the film feature at the Capitol. It has the honor of American manhood as its theme, a political candidate as its plot and its locale a New England village. The cast, headed by William H. Cagney, includes Gladys George, George Webb and Charles Malls.

"The Heritage of the Red Man" shows scenes of natural and primitive beauty of the Western country before the white man came. Larry Semon appears in newest comedy, "The Sultor."

Miss Katherine MacDonald will appear at the Strand in her latest starring vehicle "Curtain," a first national picture, based on two "Rowena" stories by Grace Lovell Bryan. Tom Geraghty and Helmar Walton Bergman prepared the scenario. Bebe has the role of a good little bad girl. The cast includes Jack Mulhall, Edward Martindel, Helen Dunbar and Harold Goodwin. There will also be a Paramount-Mack Bennett comedy, "My Goodness," a Prima color scenic of South Africa, will be a feature of the film programme.

"The Restless Sex," with Marion Davies, will begin the fourth week of its engagement at the Criterion.

"While New York Sleeps" ends an engagement at the Lyric Theatre to-night, which has included six consecutive weeks.

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Features for the week at Loew's New York will include "Civilian Clothes" with Thomas Melghan, Monday; "Marooned Hearts" with Conway Tearle, Tuesday; "The House of Whispers," with Warren Kerrigan, Wednesday; "The Forbidden Valley," Thursday; "Fancher" with Norma Talmadge, Friday; and "Pink Tights," with Olive Hill, Saturday, and "The Cradle of Courage," with William S. Hart, Sunday.

Bebe Daniels blossoms forth into stardom at the Rivoli with "You Never Can Tell," a first national picture, based on two "Rowena" stories by Grace Lovell Bryan. Tom Geraghty and Helmar Walton Bergman prepared the scenario. Bebe has the role of a good little bad girl. The cast includes Jack Mulhall, Edward Martindel, Helen Dunbar and Harold Goodwin. There will also be a Paramount-Mack Bennett comedy, "My Goodness," a Prima color scenic of South Africa, will be a feature of the film programme.

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Hoage Would Make Plays Appear Real

Actor Says a Certain Amount of Exaggeration Is Necessary on Stage.

William Hoage, the star, cares very little about his collaborator, William Hoage, the author. The programme for his latest vehicle, "The Guest of Honor," proves this, for while the leading page announces that "Lee Shubert presents William Hoage," only the last page has an obscure line, "Play written and staged by Mr. Hoage," thus providing the documentary evidence necessary to back up all startling statements.

In the past, it may be recalled, he even has hid the light of his typewriter under the bushel of such a name as "Lawrence Whitman," and when he was confronted with this evidence in his dressing room the other night he made a clean breast of everything.

"All I care about," said Mr. Hoage, "is that the public shall see me in something suitable and form fitting. Like the potter who did not care who wrote the country's laws so long as he administered them I do not give a rap who knocks out the play; but if nobody else provides the right play then I must dash it off myself.

"By the right play I mean an honest, human play, which the public prefers to what I call a dramatic lie—a work false to humanity and ultimately to the box office. But an honest human play is not necessarily what is termed a 'naturalistic play' by college classes in the drama, who turn them out by the carload. One of the first principles of true playwriting is that you cannot be any more natural than an old dapper type. Why? For the simple reason that the naturalness of daily life will not carry across the footlights, will not have the unity and perspective and emphasis of character necessary to make a play more interesting than the family's Sunday dinner.

"A certain amount of exaggeration on the stage is requisite—to achieve the appearance of reality, which is truly become real to the mind, the eye and the ear of the audience as naturalness itself without a whisper of being dressed up with art. Overemphasis of underemphasis may prove equally fatal and make the footlights too apparent. Only experience—and sometimes the experience of failure—can teach us just what the right degree really is for presenting life as it ought to be on the stage to seem genuine on the other side of it."

VANDEBILT'S START IN LIFE.

Actor Tells How Founder of Famous By Regan Career.

Douglas J. Wood, who plays the role of Cornelius Vanderbilt in "Little Old New York" at the Plymouth Theatre, spent considerable time before the play opened delving into the history of the family whose name he bears on the stage. One of the anecdotes he unearthed in a volume from the Public Library tells of the incidents that led to young Cornelius's debut as a ferryman.

Twenty-six days before his sixteenth birthday young Vanderbilt, wishing to embark in the ferry business, asked his mother to lend him \$100 to buy a sailboat. To test his earnestness she told him that if he would plough, harrow and plant with corn an eight acre lot (part of the Vanderbilt Staten Island farm) before his birthday she would lend him the money.

Vanderbilt induced his young cronies to help him, promising free rides on his boat as their reward. Within the twenty-six days the task had not only been accomplished, but the lads had built a wall of stone about the place, increasing the value of the plot by \$100. Thus by the fortune that attended so much of America with steel rails.

"FOLLIES OF EAST SIDE."

The National Winter Garden, which appears to be growing in favor with burlesque patrons under the management of the Minsky Brothers, will have as its attraction for this week "Follies of the Lower East Side," with fifteen principals and thirty chorus girls.

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