

WARY OF COMEDIAN HARD, SAYS FIGMAN

Actor Discusses Difficulties of Mummer Who Must Blend Pathos and Fun

Tells of His Early Ventures and How He Has Finally Come Into His Own

In centers of culture, where they knew their Dickens, we were liked; elsewhere we weren't. So 'Old Curiosity Shop' was shelved, for the time being, and I was to appear this season in a new play written for me, when the switch in Henry Dixie's taste...

The way of the comedian is hard, sighed Figman. "He is expected to be merely the clown; but he is never a real comedian until he succeeds in interpreting a role in which the elements of pathos and comedy are blended; until he can inspire the tear as well as the laugh, and his greatest reward comes when a hushed audience feels at his will the catch in the throat and individually wipes away the furtive tear."

Belasco's Enterprise

HEATER GOERS throughout the entire western states will be interested in learning that Belasco & Mayer are going to revive the "Before-the-Fire" operations whereby the most recent eastern successes will be sent on tour with the Alcazar touring company, under Frederic Belasco's personal direction.

Plays that demonstrate their popularity by extended runs of two, three and four weeks at the Alcazar theater, San Francisco, will be launched with all the excellence of cast and production for which the Alcazar company is noted.

For the first time in the country's theatrical New York successes may be witnessed in the leading cities and towns of all the territory west of the Missouri within a few weeks of the New York opening.

This has been brought about by the recent merger of western and eastern interests whereby Frederic Belasco will be in a position to offer plays to the theatrical clientele of the Pacific states on a more satisfactory basis than has yet been accomplished.

The first attraction under this new regime will be the recent New York success of "St. Elmo."

DANCING ACT TO BE AMERICAN'S FEATURE

Lola Yberri to Be Seen in Spectacular Number

A dancing act of international fame will be the leading feature this afternoon in the Alcazar. Lola Yberri, assisted by Miss Taylor, appears in a terpsichorean presentation. The act will be beautifully staged and electrical effects will add to the brilliance of the scene.

The Baltrus quartet of acrobats will present a novel acrobatic number, and "The Merry Widow" will be heard in one of the prettiest comedy and singing turns before the public.

Another feature of the forthcoming bill will be provided by Myrtle Dale, who is the possessor of a phenomenal voice. It is said that she sings more than an octave below the range of the ordinary baritone voice and that her tones are musical and beautifully resonant. Leg Jamboree, the Brown trio in popular and classical music; Newman and De Coursey in a society act; Eddie Dolan, in an eccentric comedy number, and two reels of motion pictures, expertly staged by the American theater, will complete the bill.

KOLB AND DILL IN FINE BURLESQUE

Travesty on "The Music Master" at the Princess

Kolb and Dill's latest offering, a burlesque on "The Music Master," has caught on at the Princess theater. In this travesty on Charles Klein's great play Joseph Herbert has caught the spirit of the original drama with remarkable keenness. His sense of travesty is not less obvious; he is a real satirist, and many of his lines scintillate with wit.

Kolb as the music master, garbed in Warfieldian fashion and topped by the crown of the Princess theater, is the role of his career. His fun making is irresistible and his simulation of Warfield's mannerisms is a perfect characterization and broadly humorous. Dill is again in skirts, and Miss Holstein, the boarding house keeper, he is scream. His song, "Little Houston Street," is one of the big hits of the performance.

"Higgledy Piggledy" remains the curtain raiser of the performance at the Princess and retains its earned popularity. Both of the halves of the bill are dressed elaborately and staged with careful attention to detail.

NIECE OF MODJESKA TO APPEAR AT WIGWAM

Rosina Zelaska and Leo Cooper Will Present "The Operator"

Rosina Zelaska, a niece of the late Mme. Modjeska, is among the players who will be seen in the new bill at the Wigwam this afternoon. With Leo Cooper, who is well known in San Francisco as an actor and student of the drama, she will appear in Charles Kenyon's dramatic sketch, "The Operator." Eckert and Francis in "Wireless Telegraphy" and Gardner, Rankin and Griffin in a musical comedy set are fun makers of the first magnitude and promise to bid high for public favor.

An act said to be one of the greatest lyric hits in vaudeville is to be presented by the Romany opera company, comprising seven singers. The company will be heard in "La Fiesta di Agosto." Eckert and Francis in "Wireless Telegraphy" and Gardner, Rankin and Griffin in a musical comedy set are fun makers of the first magnitude and promise to bid high for public favor. Edgar Berger, an accomplished equitist, and Ray Fern, an excellent entertainer, are among the other newcomers. The bill throughout will be exceptionally strong. Matinees are given every day.

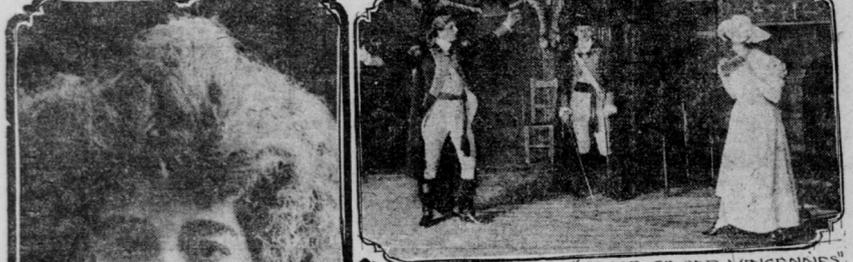
New Dramatic Offerings and Gossip



MARIE CAHILL GIRLS COLUMBIA



SEVEN OF THE SHOW GIRLS - PRINCESS



MAX FIGMAN SAVOY



SCENE FROM "ALICE OF OLD VINCENNES" AT THE ALCAZAR

MRS. LESLIE CARTER VAN NESS

MISS FLORENCE ROBERTS IN THE NOVELTY

MRS. LESLIE CARTER VAN NESS

This Week's Attractions

- NEW COLUMBIA—Marie Cahill in "The Boys and Betty."
VAN NESS—Mrs. Leslie Carter in "Vasta Herne."
SAVOY—Max Figman in "Mary Jane's Pa."
ALCAZAR—"Alice of Old Vincennes."
PRINCESS—Kolb and Dill in travesty on "The Music Master" and "Higgledy Piggledy."
ORPHEUM—Vaudeville.
NATIONAL—Vaudeville.
WIGWAM—Vaudeville.
AMERICAN—Vaudeville

AS A COMEDienne SHE IS CHARMING

Marie Cahill Captures the City in Her Music Play, "The Boys and Betty"

Marie Cahill's hit in San Francisco has been instantaneous and pronounced. She has captured the city. As Betty in "The Boys and Betty" at the new Columbia she has a role that for coquetry, ingenuousness and comedy could not be bettered.

To say that the little comedienne makes good in the part is to state the facts very mildly. She is a scream. Every glance, every gesture and every movement on the stage is keyed in just the proper spirit and her songs are whistling delights.

One of Marie Cahill's principal charms comes from her engaging confidences with her auditors. She is like the Irish American, "The Irish American," which commends her to the memory of its founder, the late Sam S. Shubert.

The scenery, costumery, stage effects, properties and accessories of the musical play, "The Boys and Betty," could scarcely be improved upon. There is nothing tawdry in sight, nor anything cheap or soiled.

Individual hits are scored by several of the members of the cast, notably by Ann Mooney, W. G. Stewart, Sam B. Hardy, Wallace McCutcheon, Jr. and James B. Carson, the latter being particularly good in his German role.

Robert Mantell's dramatic revival of classic drama will be ushered on the stage of the new Columbia at the close of the present management of Marie Cahill and "the boys."

Louis James will close his engagement at the Van Ness theater tonight in "King Henry VIII." He will appear as Cardinal Wolsey and Aphie James as Queen Catherine.

Mrs. Leslie Carter comes to the Van Ness tomorrow night for a week's stay. She will appear in "Vasta Herne," a new and strenuous play by Edward Peple, author of "Prince Chap." The drama deals with a modern problem. It concerns the influence that work have in society through the use of drugs and narcotics. A talented woman, falling into the hands of an unscrupulous publisher, becomes the victim of his wickedness. To forget her shame she takes to the use of drugs and under the influence of the stuff she finds that she writes more brilliantly than she did when she was in a normal state.

As an emotional actress Mrs. Carter's gifts are too well known to require exploitation, and it is said that in all her career she has never had a play which gives her equal opportunity with this for the display of those talents that have made her famous.

Blanche Walsh follows Mrs. Carter at the Van Ness in a new play, "The Test."

FLORENCE ROBERTS IS SHUBERTS STAR

California Actress' Engagement Here Is Attractive

San Francisco theater goers are already evincing great interest in the forthcoming engagement of Florence Roberts, the Shubert star, at the Novelty theater, beginning February 7.

RURAL PLAY IS A RESTFUL COMEDY

Max Figman's Impersonation in "Mary Jane's Pa" is a Theatrical Hit

Max Figman begins the second and last week of his prosperous engagement in "Mary Jane's Pa" at the Savoy theater with the usual Sunday matinee today. This play and player are the talk of the town. They came without any blasts of trumpets and more than delivered the goods and San Francisco has responded in good old fashioned style.

"Mary Jane's Pa" as a play is a delightful rest. There are no social, public or moral questions discussed. It is simply a chapter from life transferred from an Indiana country village to the stage with truth and sincerity.

Perhaps the most inviting aspect of the engagement is the general excellence of the company. They were all evidently chosen for their fitness to their roles and there isn't one disappointment. They are not all stars, of course, but in their respective characters they deserve to be so called.

The attention to detail in the production deserves all the praise that has been accorded and any dramatic critic can recommend this entertainment to his readers in honesty and sincerity.

Dramatic Notes

Kolb and Dill propose to revive "Lonesome Town" soon.

Bert Leslie, "the slang slinger," is booked for appearance at the Orpheum next month.

An early Van Ness attraction will be "A Man's Man," with Robert Edeson in the leading role.

Margaret Anglin will bring her new play, "The Awakening of Helena Richie," to the Columbia this season.

Klaw & Erlanger's "Laugh Trust," a comedy, is being produced in New York with the New York production of "In Hayti."

"My Wife," in which play Miss Billie Burke made her debut to San Francisco with John Drew, will be produced shortly at the Alcazar.

Charles Frohman's star, Hattie Williams, is to play San Francisco her first visit a few weeks hence, she will appear in "Detective Sparks."

Silvio Hein, composer of Marie Cahill's song successes in "The Boy and Betty," has recently supplied De Wolf Hopper with a musical success which is now at work on another production.

Laura Oakley, who is playing the role of Herr Barewic's daughter in the travesty on "The Music Master" at the Princess, will be remembered as a former member of the old Bostonian company.

Frederic Belasco will go to New York early in February to secure plays for the combined stock theaters of the Pacific coast, which commences at the Alcazar is to be the directing and producing center.

S. S. and Lee Shubert, incorporated, recently opened the new Sam Shubert theater in Boston with E. H. Sothern and Julia Marlowe. The playhouse is dedicated by the firm to the memory of its founder, the late Sam S. Shubert.

Blanche Walsh is admittedly one of the leading emotional actresses of the present day. She will shortly be seen at the Van Ness theater in "The Test." This will be the star's first appearance in San Francisco in eight years.

Henry W. Savage promises to give to San Francisco the same cast in "The Merry Widow" as presented it here at the Van Ness theater. The only changes in the personnel will be minor. Mabel Wilber and George Damerel will be the leading players.

Mrs. Leslie Carter proposes soon to be seen as Lady Macbeth. Curiously enough she has never witnessed a production of the play, preferring to give her own interpretation of the ambitious woman, without being influenced by other portrayals.

Charles F. Gall, local representative of the Shuberts, proposes to have a "10 o'clock club" after the New York idea, established at the Novelty theater for the convenience of local and visiting theatergoers, newspaper and other professional men.

If the public approves there will be a revival of old plays at the Alcazar soon. The first will be "The Two Orphans," which, if it is liked, will be followed by "The Three Guardsmen," "The Jilt," "London Assurance," "The Lady of Lyons" and other masterpieces of other generations.

Frank Perlet, conductor of the Princess orchestra, held his first rehearsal of the burlesque, starting with "The Merry Widow" music last week with 25 pieces in the orchestra. The instrumental part of the musical travesty was greatly augmented in order to do full justice to the beauties of the Lehar score.

Under the direction of the Shuberts, Miss Lulu Glaser has recently made her first appearance in a new musical play, "One of the Boys," the book of which was written by Rida Johnson Young and the music by W. A. Stillinger, a hitherto unknown composer. The premiere was given in Schenectady, N. Y.

AMUSEMENTS

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Last Week—Immense Hit CLAUDE & FANNIE USHER Playing Their Slane Classic, "FAGAN'S DECISION."

FOUR READINGS EQUESTRIANS AND FLYING LEAPS. COOK AND STEVENS "NO CHECKEE—NO WASHIEE."

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KOLB & DILL Present Themselves in the Burlesque "THE MUSIC MASTER"

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