

### 'GIRL IN TAXI' TO RIDE AT COLUMBIA

Risque French Farce Censored for Presentation in the United States

By WALTER ANTHONY

The attraction at the Columbia theater next week, beginning Monday night, will be "The Girl in the Taxi," which has been discussed across the country and generally approved. It is produced by Al Woods, who is also the producer of "Madame Sherry," and while at first it was complained against because it was said to be risqué, the incisions in the book are said to have made the French farce entirely acceptable to American audiences. If it is half as funny as "The Blue Mouse" there will be no reasonable objection possible to urge against it.

"The Girl in the Taxi" was brought out in Chicago, where the original booking of four weeks was extended to 250 performances. In Boston, where the propriety of plays is a matter of grave concern with the solemn censors, it had another long run, and at the Astor theater in New York it is credited with another big success.

The play is an adaptation by Stanislaus Stange from the original of Anthony Mars, and in the translation Stange is said to have lost none of the piquancy of the original while eliminating that which American audiences might find too strong.

Bobby Barry heads the list of the players which presents the farce, and Pearl Sindelar, Helen Salinger, Harry Hanlon, Amanda Wellington, Edna Esmeralda, Helene Veolia, George Wingfield (not Wingfield), and Victor Roal assist in the fun making.

"Brunhilde," says Margaret Crawford, "is the most womanly and beautiful of all the contralto roles that Wagner ever wrote. The contralto in the scheme of opera, light or heavy, is usually the goat, so to say. She is the wretch who does the damage which sends a Leonora to her death." Miss Crawford is the contralto with "The Chocolate Soldier," which comes to the Savoy next week, and she claims that the piece is neither a comic opera, a musical comedy—which assuredly it is not—nor an opera comique nor an opera bouffe, but that it is in essence and fact a music drama, inasmuch as the action of the play is mirrored in the music at all times and that the two are mutually dependent, neither being able to exist without the other.

It is said of Miss Crawford that her musical training, begun in this country, was continued in Berlin and Dresden, and that, while in Germany, she enjoyed the acquaintance and friendship of Frau Cosima Wagner, for whom she sang the role of Brunhilde in the Bayreuth master's "Die Walkure." She appeared successfully at the Hof, or state theaters in Berlin and Dresden.

Leo Ditrichstein's comedy, "Is Matrimony a Failure" led David Belasco to believe that it answered a question which has agitated men and women for ages. Books on the subject have been written in every civilized language. Learned sociologists have prepared these galore about it. Novelists have improvised ad infinitum on the theme. Prophets have prayed and preachers have preached about it. But the query remained unanswered, Belasco thought,

### "IS MATRIMONY A FAILURE" WILL BE ANSWERED NEXT WEEK AT THE ALCAZAR

Some of the players who will be seen and heard next week at local playhouses.

until Ditrichstein submitted to him the comedy which is to be the Alcazar's attraction next week. In the play are 35 respectable couples, living in a small town, who awoke one morning to discover that they were not legally married. What they then did solves the eternal problem, it is said.

Occasionally there comes to the desk of the dramatic critic a story of unusual character. It emanates from a fertile brain, usually, and is neither important nor true—but it is funny. These stories are welcomed because there exists no need to verify them, and fact is subservient to fancy. I have not the heart to mutilate this gem of imagination with my blue pencil smears nor to try to verify the contents, but submit the story with



the explanation that such as this are usually marked "not duplicated," to which, in the handwriting of Barnett Franklin, the local chief of publicity at the Princess, added "certainly." This is the visitor's story:

**MISS HOFFMAN'S PERSIAN CAT**  
There are theatrical dog stories. This is a fish story. Ruby Hoffman, the widow in "A Gentleman From Mississippi" company, which comes to the Princess next Sunday afternoon, is the heroine, or, rather, her cat is. The cat's name is Mike. Miss Hoffman has a five acre farm near Hartsdale, N. Y. She also has a cherished Persian cat. One day the cat brought home a beautiful speckled trout and carefully laid it on the kitchen table. When the trout was served at dinner the cat sat by her mistress, purring delightedly, and was rewarded with the head.

"Next day the cat brought home another trout, then another and another. Never a quail or a lobster, but always a freshly caught trout. Steady fish



AMANDA WELLINGTON

"Every Woman Wants" takes her little daughter with her on her vaudeville travels. It happened that yesterday was the first time Faith ever saw her mother on the stage. She sat with some friends of her mother in the stage box and watched the heroine of the skit with the widest kind of eyes. She was not certain whether she liked to see mamma dressed up as a lady's waiting maid, but concluded, in view of the applause, that everything must be all right. Afterward little Faith—that sounds ambiguous, doesn't it, "Little Faith"—said to her mother with big faith in her voice: "When I grow up I'm going to be an actress." Which her mother says Faith will not.

Next week's attraction at the Empress will include Ray Dooley's metropolitan minstrel, headed by Miss Ray Dooley herself. Five girls and two boys participate in a "minstrel first part." Les Ploetz Lovella sisters, gymnasts; Howard Truesdale and company in a skit, "A Corner in Hair," and Strling and Chapman, Scotch singers and basspipe players, are some of the others who will supply the Empress with a week's entertainment.

Clayton White and Marie Stuart return to the Orpheum next Sunday afternoon in George V. Hobart's one act comedy, "Cherie." It is nearly three years since they were here and they are pleasantly remembered. Porter J. White, a well known actor, will present "The Visitor," which his brother, Oliver, wrote for him. Charles B. Lawlor and his daughter come with a character sketch, which includes much melody. The Victoria four in character sketches and music, and Arthur Borani and Annie Nevaro, comedy acrobats, will constitute the new comers on the bill.

Lillian Burkhart, who was one of the first to introduce one act playlets into vaudeville and who is at the Orpheum in an engrossing "dramatlet," "What

### FAVORITES TO BE SEEN AT ORPHEUM

Clayton White and Marie Stuart to Return After Three Years' Absence

pany, returned to the city yesterday with the glad tidings that his recently written play, "Don't Lie to Your Wife," had been accepted for production by Harry Frazee and Dave Lewis. The premiere of the farce will take place at St. Paul in the Metropolitan theater within a week.

### DOMINICAN CHOIR TO RENDER "NATIVITY"

Doctor Stewart to Direct Oratorio January 26

The oratorio, "The Nativity," composed by Dr. H. J. Stewart, will be given at St. Dominic's church in Bush and Pierce streets Thursday evening, January 26.

Doctor Stewart for several months has rehearsed his chorists, who include the regular Dominican choir and a picked chorus of 40 voices. Doctor Stewart will be at the organ and will be assisted by Miss Carrie Gobel Weston as violinist and Mrs. Mary Fitzsimons as harpist.

"The Nativity" was composed 25 years ago, but it is only within the last few years that he has had the satisfaction of seeing his work produced with any success. It was first presented by the Paulist choristers in Chicago under the direction of Rev. W. J. Finn December 13, 1909. It was unusually well received. Its second appearance was during the December concert of the Ellis club in Los Angeles, where J. B. Poulin directed.

Admission to the oratorio, which will begin at 8 o'clock, will be by ticket. These may be obtained at the Dominican monastery, 1919 Steiner street, or at Sherman, Clay & Co.'s, the afternoons of January 23, 24, 25 and 26.

### JUSTICES OF PEACE WANT COURT CLERKS

In order to expedite litigation and make necessary the creation of additional justices, the justices of the peace are said to be looking with favor on a proposal to petition the legislature to authorize the appointment of courtroom clerks. At present the work of a clerk is done by the respective justices, except those who hire and pay a clerk out of their salaries.

Judge A. B. Treadwell is said to be the father of the measure.

### SAN JOSE FIRM FILES BANKRUPTCY PETITION

Cianciarulo Brothers, San Jose merchants, filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy in the United States district court yesterday, naming their liabilities at \$3,707 and assets at \$1,611. Other petitions were filed by R. C. Blanchard, an Oakland, commissionman, owing \$1,127, and by Walter O. Sedgley, an Alameda clerk, owing \$1,773. They ask that their assets be exempted.

### FOUR BOYS JAILED FOR STORE HOLDUP

Girl Identifies Youths as Assailants Who Robbed Till of Father's Shop

Four youths were arrested yesterday by Detectives Leo Bunner and Louis Cornelius and are held at the detention home, accused of robbery. The lads are Martin Hermann, 16 years old, residing at 658 Capp street; Durwood Weaver, 16 years old, 3217 Nineteenth street; David and Abraham Lefwitz, 16 and 16 years old, respectively, 733 Capp street. They were identified as the quartet that held up and robbed 12 year old Annie Holden late Tuesday afternoon in the store conducted by her father at 125 San Carlos street.

According to the girl, the boys entered shortly after her father had left the place to visit Mrs. Holden, who is ill in a hospital. They asked to be shown a pie that was on a shelf in the window. When the girl attempted to comply with the request, two of the boys seized her by the arms, while another struck her in the face. The fourth boy went to the cash till and took \$2.15, all there was. They ran away.

Descriptions given by the girl enabled Bunner and Cornelius to locate the four lads in Bryant street. They stoutly denied that they were implicated in the crime. They will be taken before the juvenile court.

### ASHTON POTTERS SAIL FOR ORIENT

Bride of Nine Months, Who Was Mrs. Ganson Depew, Has Belated Honeymoon

The many friends of Ashton Potter were surprised to learn yesterday of his sudden appearance in San Francisco and his departure on the Tenyo Maru for Hongkong, where he is taking his bride of nine months, the former Mrs. Ganson Depew.

Filled with recollections of the sensational proceedings and manifold difficulties attendant on the Depew divorce in time for the Depew-Potter marriage, San Francisco holds no charms for Potter. Besides, the other Mrs. Ashton Potter, who was Miss Mary McNutt, lives here. Therefore, Potter kept his visit a secret until yesterday. Formerly Potter was connected with the United States army and he was the husband of Mrs. Mary McNutt Potter, the daughter of Dr. W. F. McNutt, whom he married some nine years ago in the Philippines. He resigned his commission in the army and three years ago, when the couple were traveling in Switzerland, they fell in with the Ganson Depews, and Potter fell farthest. When he deserted his wife she came to San Francisco and got her divorce. Mrs. Depew followed suit. Then came the wedding and now the belated honeymoon.

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