Promising Pictures Feature Programs Of Local Theaters

NEW HORROR FILM AT STATE SUNDAY

"The Wolf Man "Features Lon Chaney, Jr.; "Honolulu Lu" on Same Bill

Coming to a close tomorrow evening at Warner's State theater is "The Shanghai Gesture" with Gene Tierney, Walter Huston, Victor Mature and Ona Munson; also Jackie Cooper and Susanna Foster in "Glamour Boy".

Plenty of thrills will be in the offing for local theatergoers when "The Wolf Man", a new horror drama, opens a three day engagement at the State starting Sunday.

The new thriller was produced by Universal Studios, creators of the "Frankenstein" films, "Dracula," "The Mummy" and other horror hits and they are said to outdo all previous efforts in the field with "The Wolf Man".

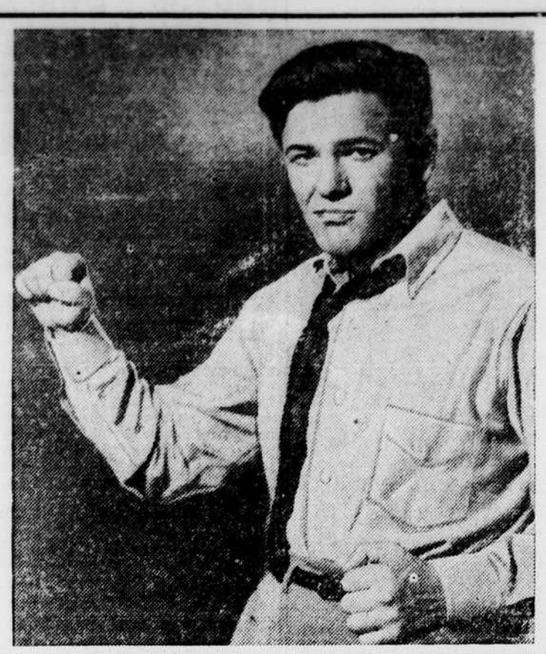
A potential star is uncovered in the person of Lon Chaney, whose father, the late Lon Chaney, Sr., appeared in "The Phantom of the Opera," and other early horror successes at the same studio. In addition, the most imposing case yet assigned to a horror drama finds eight important players in featured roles. The distinguished actor Claude Rains heads a cast which also includes Warren William, Ralph Bellamy, Patrick Knowles, Bela Lugosi, Evelyn Ankers and Chaney.

The story of the new chiller finds a young man, played by Chaney, returning to his family's ancient castle in Wales after a lengthy absence. Attempting to save a village girl from an attack by a wolf the young man is bitten. A legend of ancient days comes to life when it turns out that the savage beast was actually a wer-wolf and having been bitten by a wer-wolf, the young man later becomes one himself. All this, including the weird and horrifying transformation from man to wer-golf, is thrilling told. The screen play is written so that the subsequent ravaging of the wer-wolf might have taken place in the victim's mind although it is unfolded vividly in the action.

"Honolulu Lu", called the gayest laughfest of the season, is the second hit of the program and stars Lupe Velez wtih Leo Carillo, Bruce Bennett and Roger Clark.

Next in the State'ss big lineup of mid-winter hits is "They Live Dangerously," a timely and exciting tale of a hero and his girl who go "all out" for Uncle Sam. The new picture co-stars John Garfield, Nancy Coleman and Raymond Massey with a large cast of favorites. The second hit of Wednesday's program "Blondie Goes to College" marks the latest in the series of the lovable Bumstead screen family. Penny Singleton, Arthur Lake and Larry Simms are featured.

Other attractions coming soon to the State include "Paris Calling," "Three Girls About Town," Olsen and Johnson in "Hellzapoppin'," and James Cagney in "Captain of the Clouds".



John Garfield who is starred with Nancy Coleman and Raymond Massey in the new Warner Bros. picture "Dangerously They Live" coming Wednesday to Warner's State theater for an engagement of four days. Included on the same show is "Blondie Goes to College".

In Hollywood

BY PAUL HARRISON
(NEA Service Staff Correspondent)

Hollywood—It's autumn of 1917 on the set of "Yankee Doodle Dandy"; the scene is Camp Merritt, Long Island; the occasion is the intrdouction of George M. Cohan's great war song, "Over There."

On the night it really happened, while Nora Bayes was singing, a power plant failure produced a blackout which was broken dramatically by the use of spotlights from a circle of army trucks. That detail is being enacted now, except Frances Langford is the uniformed singer and Jimmy Cagney is the song-and-dance man who goes on the platform and helps lead the soldier audience in a couple of choruses.

Nobody's obliged to do any real singing during this action because voices, band and bugles are roaring from a pre-recorded sound track. Not everyone does sing, and the climax of it is stirring enuogh to make the hair rise on the back of your neck.

FRANCES RELAXES

As she leaves the set after the shot, Miss Langford pauses to give autographs to a few doughboy extras. She's a radio personality and not often seen at the movie studios. "This is a relief," she says, sitting down and stretching out her feet in their high-laced, pointed shoes. "It's a relief, I mean, to be singing something besides ballads for a change.

"It's exciting, isn't it? No, I never san 'Over There' before, but I remember it. I remember it from the theater in Lakeland, Fla. My mother played the piano there, and every time a war scene came on the screen she'd go into this tune."

Most exciting to Miss Langford is her entertainment work at Army camps. There's no audience so appreciative as a bunch of soldiers, she says, unless it's a bunch of sailors. The latter applaud her with stacks of letters and she answers every one.

The fan mail problem is getting awfully expensive, the singer admitted nervously, especially with all the requests for photographs. She pays for everything, including an office and secretaries to keep the mail moving. Most of her letters go to the fleet, and as she sings she likes to remember that her voice is going out to darkened ships in the velvet blackness of the Atlantic, and to ships boiling through sunny Oriental seas.

* * *

FREAKS DEMANDED

Hollywood may be freakish in some ways, but when Alfred Hitchcock tried to round up a sideshow company for a sequence in "Saboteur" he had to do a Barnum-like job of fakery. Midget Billy Curtis, a full-fledged actor from dozens of movies, was available ,and Pedro de Cordoba doubles as a satisfactory thin man. For a bearded lady, though, whiskers had to be spirit-bummed on the face of a character actress. And for Siamese twins, Hitchcock hired twin dancers, Jeanne and Lynn Romer, who achieve unity by wriggling into costumes that have been sewed together.

It's significant that in all this region of feminine emaciation, there wasn't a suitable fat woman. Hitchcock, who's the fattest man in Hollywood, had to import Marie LeDeaux from a carnival in Arizona. Marie weighs only 350 pounds, but she's also a mere five feet in height. She weighed 85 pounds a tthe age of 2. But Marie admits that she never will be as famous as her mother—500-pound Baby Alice. Miss LeDeaux' father was a lanky boss canvasman.

She lvies movies, all right, but isn't envious of the screen queens. Wouldn't trade places with any of 'em if it meant going on a diet.

Up And Down Broadway

BY JACK GAVER
United Press Drama Editor

NEW YORK, Jan. 30.—(UP)—One of the finest things that has happened to Broadway this in-and-out, crisis-ridden season is the revival of "Porgy and Bess," that grand operetta with music by the late George Gershwin and libretto by the late DuBose Heyward from his play, "Porgy," which in turn stemmed from his short novel of the same name.

The score was Gershwin's finest work and a promise of even better things to come, but his untimely death left the "Porgy and Bess" music as the climax of an already honored career. The songs have gained great popular favor in the six years that have intervened since the original production.

"Porgy and Bess," however, is not just a production known for its music. The libretto was and is an excellent one and the lyrics by Heyward and Ira Gershwin remain exactly what the doctor ordered. The story of the crippled Negro Porgy and his love for the woman Bess, who also was the object of the affections of the villainous giant Crown, remains as poignant as the first time you met up with it.

It is finely acted and sung by a cast that is almost a duplicate of the original one. Todd Duncan again has the role of Porgy, Anne Brown is Bess, Ruby Elzy is Serena, Warren Coleman is Crown, Georgette Harvey is Maria, and J. Rosamond is new in the role of that gamblin', ladies' man, Sportin' Life, and does a really excellent job. The singing of the chorus is worth the price of admission alone.

In case you are a bit hazy on the details, the better known musical numbers are "Summer Time," "I Got Plenty of Nuttin'," "It Ain't Necessarily so," and "Bess, You Is My Woman Now."

The person to be thanked for reviving this splendid entertainment is Cheryl Crawford, boss of the highly successful Mapewood, N. J., theater, who tried out the revival experiment there late last fall and found that she had something worth bringing to town.

* * *

"ALL IN FAVOR," by Louis Hoffman and Don Hartman, was a quick failure for the new production firm of Elliott Nugent and Robert Montgomery. The critics found this comedy about the troubles of a group of adolescents not to their liking and the producers bowed to their verdict without a quiver.

* * *

THE versatile Nugent, however, is not going to be idle long. He has been tapped for the male lead in the new Philip Barry comedy, "Without Love," which will have Katharine Hepburn as its leading woman. The Theater Guild will be the producer and all hands hope to duplicate the success of the Barry-Hepburn-Guild "The Philadelphia Story" of three seasons ago.

* * *

KATHARINE CORNELL is working her way across country to Broadway with a new play, "Rose Burke," the first script in English by the highly successful French dramatist, Henri Bernstein. It opened in San Francisco and is scheduled to play Portland, Ore., Seattle, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Milwaukee and Detroit before arriving here. Philip Mericale is the star's leading man.

* * *

NOVELIST JOHN STEINBECK whose one adventure in the theater was the successful "Mice and Men," is due for a return joust some time this spring. Producer Oscar Serlin has acquired the dramatic rights of Steinbeck's new novel, "The Moon Is Down," which will be a Book-of-the-Month Club selection soon, and the novelist is at work now turning it into a play. It is described as a "vigorous statement of faith in the unconqurable spirit of free men and women."

NEW COMEDY TEAM COMES TO STRAND

Durante, Silvers Genuine Laugh Riot in "You're in the Army Now"

Ending tomorrow evening at Warner's Strand theater is "Two-Faced Woman" starring Greta Garbo with Melvyn Douglas; also Lloyd Nolan and Constance Bennett in "Buy Me That Town."

Launching the new comedy team of Jimmy Durante and Phil Silvers "You're In The Army Now" arrives at the Strand on Sunday as the headliner of the giant week-end program.

As a team, Durante and Silvers are said to be a scream. Add to this a topnotch story that is geared for laughs throughout, Jane Wyman and Regis Toomey as the young romantic pair, the beauteous Navy Blues Sextette for eye appeal, and the music of Matty Malneck's orchestra, and you have a picture which stacks up as one of the best of the season.

It was pure inspiration to team up Durante and Silvers, each ace comedians in their own right, put them in khaki, and pit them against the army. For that is what it comes down to in the final analysis—Durante and Silvers, rugged individualists, vs. the Manual of Arms.

They try, but they just can't do anything right . . . and every one of their tries is good for a launch.

Briefly, "You're In The Army Now" tells the story of two vacuum salesmen who try to sell their wares to an army recruiting sergeant. They're good salesmen, but he's a better one, and before they know it, they have signed themselves into a three-year enlistment.

Durante's antics have long entertained stage, screen and radio audiences but he has seldom been more genuinely funny than he is in this picture, and Phil Silvers is one of the few comedians who can match him—madcap antic for madcap antic.

Co-featuring the program is "Blues in the Night" a different kind of musical with Priscilla Lane, Betty Field, Richard Whorf, new sensation, Jack Carson and two "name" bands Jimmy Lunceford's and Will Osbornes'.

Topping the new show opening Wednesday at the Strand is the laugh and love hit "You Belong To Me" co-starring Barbara Stanwyck and Melvyn Douglas. Co-featuring the program is "Confirm or Deny" a thrill-packed story played against a background of bomb-wracked London. Don Ameche and Joan Bennett are co-starred.

Other attractions coming soon to the Strand include such long-awaited super-productions as "Tarzan's Secret Treasure," "Babes On Broadway," "Swamp Water," "Birth of the Blues," "All Through The Night" and many others.

POPULAR NOVEL APTLY SCREENED

"How Green Was My Valley" Opens Tomorrow at Loew's Poli Theater

At long last the dramatization of Richard Llewellyn's best selling novel, "How Green Was My Valley," is brought to the screen by 29th Century-Fox under the productive genius of Darryl F. Zanuck and opens today at Loew's Poli theater. Here is the film that has been eagerly awaited and from the accounts of preview audiences it promises to fulfill the expectations of the most discriminating motion picture fan.

The keynote of this production which is due to open at the Loew Poli theater tomorrow is the fidelity of its portrayal to the novel of the same name. Laid against the colorful background of a Welsh mining village, "How Green Was My Valley," brings to life the dynamic characters who captivated over five million people who read the outstanding book.

Seen through the eyes of the youngest member of the family — Huw Morgan — "How Green Was My Valley" traces the threads of life of the Morgan family over a period of years—revealing their trials and loves, their joys and sorrows. It's the brave story of a family never conquered, not by armed men or hardship, hunger or hate — nor by the turbulent years that stole the greenness from their valley.

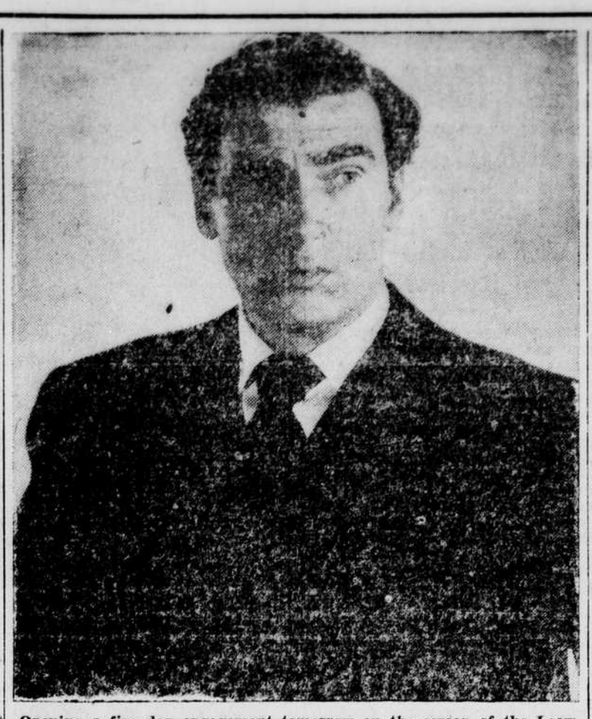
The featured cast is said to take able command of the opportunity to knit together a story that demanded highly specialized dramatic ability.

Walter Pidgeon, cast as Mr. Gruffydd, the minister, is said to cap his career with a splendid performance. Beauteous Maureen O'Hara portrays Angarad, the lovely Morgan daughter, who captivates the pastor. Anna Lee in the role of Bronwen is modest and loveable — the epitome of womanhood, while Donald Crisp as Gwilym Morgan, the father, is firm yet kindly.

Young Roddy McDowell, the 12-year-old English actor whose accent to stardom has been spectacular, portrays the role of young Huw—shy, impressionable and courageous, full of faith and hope.

Co-featured with "How Green Was My Valley" is "Miss Polly" with Ann Rutherford and Zasu Pitts. This complete double feature program will be shown on our Early Bird Show Saturday morning at 10:00 a. m.

Current at the Loew Poli Theater in person, on stage is Lou Breese and his Breezy Rhythm Orchestra, also Beatrice Kaye, star of the Gay Nineties, and The Little Tough Guys, direct from Universal Studios in Hollywood. On the screen we are featuring "A Gentleman at Heart" with Caesar Romero and Carol Landis.



Opening a five day engagement tomorrow on the screen of the Loew Poli Theater is "How Green Was My Valley" starring Walter Pidgeon with Maureen O'Hara. The second big hit is "Miss Polly." Appearing today, in person, on the stage of Loew's Poli is Lou Breese and his orch., with Beatrice Kaye and other headline acts.

Hollywood Gossip

Michael Curtiz, Warner Bros.' colorful film director, plays polo for exercise, but plays the game alone. He's so wild and unpredictable atop his pony that other players avoid him.

Denis Morgan, whose broad shoulders and fine physique are well displayed in "Captains of the Clouds," got that way through long months of work in his father's lumber camps.

Bing Crosby purchased the small buggy used for a sequence in Irving Berlin's "Holiday Inn," the Mark Sandrich production at Paramount, against the day when his automobile tires will wear out.

SWEDISH SOCIETY TO OFFER MOVIES

Industrial and Recreational Life of People of Sweden to Be Shown

Sweden as it is today will be presented in pictures to be shown at Zion Lutheran church on Cherry street on February 10 under the auspices of the Swedish Benevolent society of Waterbury, the president, the Rev. E. Einar Kron, announced today. Several films have been secured and will show the industrial and recreational life of the people of Sweden today, and also much of the scenic beauty of the land of the midnight sun. The cameraman has gone off the beaten track of the tuorists to Sweden and has portrayed a panorama of Sweden's people and their work on the offshore islands, in the inland rural districts, in the northern mountainous region, in typical small towns and in Stockholm, the capital, the most beautiful city of northern Europe. There is a glimpse of King Gustaf nad the royal family, a visit to several factories and an opportunity to see the Swedes at play as well as at work.

For the carrying on of its work of benevolence, the Swedish Benevolent society has arranged for this showing, and welcomes to Zion church one and all who wish to attend.

Movie Notes

PRIZE HOUNDS

Charlie Smith, the Dizzy of Paramount's "Henry and Dizzy," owns 12 canines that have won ribbons in dog shows.

PURE WHITE

Leo Carrillo, dashing villain of Paramount's "American Empire," always rides a white horse in his pictures.

BETTY MAY ADOPT

Betty Field admits that the baby adoption angle of her new picture, Paramount's "Mr. and Mrs. Cugat," has led her actively to consider adopting a child in real life, as have Joan Crawford, Hedy Lamarr and other screen bachelor girls.

FIRST TIME

Though Rosalind Russell played one of her first film leads in "The President Vanishes", which was released by Paramount, she did not actually work on the Paramount lot until seven years later, wher she co-starred with Fred MacMurray in "Take a Letter, Darling."

THE HUNTRESS

Barbara Stanwyck has to fire a shotgun as a pioneer woman in "The Great Man's Lady," her latest Paramount picture.

POWELL OPENING AT STATE TODAY

Singing Screen Star and Claude Thornhill's Band on Hartford Stage

Beginning today for a limited 3 days engagement, the State Theater, Hartford has the honor of presenting, In Person, the singing star of stage, screen and radio, Dick Powell. Handsome Dick Powell has established himself solidly with the American public by his splendid performances in such pictures as "42nd Street" and "Shipmates Forever." He has appeared in scores of other screen hits, and was recently featured with Martha Raye and Abbott & Costello in the picture hit, "In the Navy." Not only does this handsome young star sing remarkably well, but his engaging manner makes him an immediate hit with his audience the moment he appears. This is Dick's first time away from Hollywood and from lovely Joan Blondell, who in private life is Mrs. Dick Powell.

On the same bill with Dick Powell is America's new band sensation, Claude Thornhill and his orchestra, featuring lovely songstress, Lillian Lane; vocalists, Dick Harding and Bob Jenny; Martha Wayne, and others.

On the screen is presented a thrilling picture of the deep, romantic south, "Lady for a Night," starring Joan Blondell and John Wayne. This is its first showing anywhere in New England.

It's a "must see" stage and screen show on your list, and it is playing today, Saturday and Sunday. (3 days only) at the State theater, Hartford.

There are late stage shows Saturday and Sunday at 10 p. m.

Barbara Stanwyck and Henry Fonda who are co-starred in the laugh and love hit "You Belong to Me" coming Wednesday to Warner's Strand theater for an engagement of four days. Co-featuring the program is "Confirm or Deny."

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PHIL SILVERS
—in the comedy hit—
"YOU'RE IN THE ARMY NOW"
—On the Same Show—
"Blues in the Night"
Priscilla Lane - Betty Field
—ENDS SATURDAY—
"Two Faced Woman"
& "Buy Me That Town"

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