

With The First Nighters

"LA TRAVIATA"

Lucy Gates, singing as she has never sung before and surrounded by a company entirely local all of whom were equal to the exacting demands of Verdi's "La Traviata," scored such a success early in the week that the increasing audiences necessitated an extra performance which was given on Friday. Five nights of grand opera by a local company would never have been possible had the incentive been found in anything but the real merit of the singers. While Miss Gates was the bright particular star of the occasion, her adequate support, together with the splendid orchestra under the direction of B. Cecil Gates, made her complete triumph possible. Some of the masters have compared Miss Gates' voice to those of many of the leading sopranos of the world and those who heard her Violetta during the week, will readily agree with them. She is an actress too, and this with the wonderful expression of her voice in differing emotions, resulted in complete success in this role which calls for everything a singer has, and if she was pleased with the warmth of her greeting, the feeling was mutual for she has never treated her local friends to anything so delightful. In her support John W. Summerhays who appeared as Alfred, was in splendid voice and his acting was fine. He has had considerable professional work, the benefit of which was shown in his perform-

ance. The other principals and the chorus had evidently been carefully selected and trained and the entire achievement was one to call further unstinted commendation.

ORPHEUM

There is no question about there being a variety in this week's bill at the Orpheum. The acts differ so much and some are so good that those partial to certain classes of vaudeville, find much to please them. There are disappointments, however, and the greatest of these is Thomas Egan, who has a beautiful voice sweetly toned, but he would appear to much better advantage in a parlor. His voice is not strong and to compare it with that of John McCormack, acquires a great stretch of the imagination. Apparently, too, he is not used to stage work. He is lacking in dramatic expression and poise and gives the impression that he is more at home in small concert singing than facing large audiences.

J. C. Nugent is an artist and his little sketch "The Squarer," with Miss Jule York as his foil, is distinctly illuminating among sketches classed as comedy. His hangover is not the least overdrawn and his facial and bodily expressions, his personality and droll remarks make up a character which many attempt to portray but fall far short of the standard set by Nugent.

Han Ping Chien with his troupe present-

ing mystifying tricks, contortions and balancing, is a real headliner and his performance is one of the most finished of the kind on the stage.

The interest in the comedy of Rex centers in the protests of his mule Maude when various gentlemen differing in color, attempt to ride the animal. It is a screamingly funny finish to the bill.

Wurnell is quite at home dancing on roller skates and his barrel jumping is well executed.

Bolger brothers, banjoists, who can play these instruments well enough, prolong their entertainment until it is a bore and May West could be eliminated from the bill entirely to its great improvement. Billed as an eccentric comedienne, she is neither. She has no voice and is simply a tough-appearing young person whose clothes and songs and sayings are suggestive and repellent.

Scenes on the Manhattan water front, shown in the Travel Weekly, begin a new series of American pictures and they are excellent.

Mrs. Leslie Carter heads the bill opening tomorrow, with a tabloid of her first great success "Zaza" and others on the bill will be Willie Solar, "late star of the London Hippodrome"; Harry and Eva Puck in "Sunshine and Showers"; William Egdirrette in his beautiful act in which he features posing dogs and horses; Eva Shirley, the young prima donna; Wilson and Lenore, and Corrigan and Vivian in novelty shooting.



MRS. LESLIE CARTER IN THE FOURTH ACT OF "ZAZA," NEXT WEEK AT THE ORPHEUM



MISS VIOLA ALLEN, WHO WILL BE AT THE AMERICAN THEATRE SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY IN "THE WHITE SISTER"