Reel Reviews

By DON ALLEN

The spirit of Christmastide hangs over many of the Broadway cinemas this week, while the Spirit of '76 permeates others.

Seemingly anxious to outdo all previous Xmas efforts, directors and managers of the big Broadway screen houses have gathered in no end of novelties.

The new films for the week are: Harold Lloyd in "Dr. Jack," at the Strand; Will Rogers in "The Headless Horseman," at the Capitol; Booth Tarkington's "The Flirt," at the Rialto; and Thomas Meighan in "Back Home and Broke," at the Rivoli.

Among the old favorites still holding their screens are: Douglas Fairbanks in "Robin Hood," at the Lyric; "The Town That Forgot God," at the Astor; and Marion Davies in "When Knighthood Was In Flower," at the Criterion.

William Fox revived his "Over the Hill" for a two week's run at the 44th Street, and to-morrow night New Yorkers will have their first chance to see a movie through the newly-patented Teleview at the Selwyn Theatre.

PASSING IN REVIEW

The program at the Rivoli this week is just an example in simple arithmetic.

For instance!

Take Thomas Meighan plus George Ade, plus a corking good story, plus funny sub-titles, plus fine direction and minus all frills and familiar film fol-de-rol and the answer is bound to be "Back Home and Broke."

And now that we've finished our arithmetic, we'll dwell upon the Rivoli's offering.

Always a prime favorite with us, Tommy Meighan is even more so after we viewed "Back Home and Broke." Here, in our estimation, is a fine example for a lot of other writers, directors and producers to shoot at. George Ade seems to have the happy faculty of knowing his film audiences as well as he has always known his readers; and with Meighan to carry his message the result is one of the happiest film offerings we have seen for a long, long time.

Stereoptic films seem to be the vogue these days and one is called the Plasticon. The pictures are in prisma color and are meant to be viewed through colored spectacles, given out by the way, by the management. The Music Film, also a prizma, introduces the little Haskins twins, two cute youngsters who know how to dance.

We had heard so much and read so much of "The Flirt," the film taken from the Booth Tarkington novel of the same name, that we were sort of prejudiced when we started for the Rialto. But when we sat and saw the familiar story come to life on the screen our prejudice faded and we thoroughly enjoyed the whole show.

It must be said for "The Flirt" that it has everything in it a movie ought to have, and that's a strong statement coming in these days of thrills. But we enjoyed "The Flirt" and think most movie goers will agree with us.

The cast is headed by Eileen Percy and Helen Jerome Eddy and numbers among its other members such players as George Nichols, Lydia Knott, Buddy Messenger and Harold Goodwin.

We think you'll like "The Flirt;" we did!

The balance of the bill, savoring as it does of the holidays, is entertaining.

If we weren't tired to death of reading paragraphic plagiarisms on the Coue method, we'd most certainly fall back on his axiom in describing Harold Lloyd and the picture game.

Much as we fought against it, we simply MUST say that every play in every way gets better and better—when it is a Harold Lloyd and, after seeing "A Sailor Made Man" and "Grandma's Boy" that is saying an awful lot for "Dr. Jack," the famous young comedian's latest offering at the Strand.

All we can say about "Dr. Jack" is that it is Harold Lloyd at his best and working his hardest.

What more could any one ask than that?

The balance of this week's bill is excellent, containing as it does such features as would best round out a tip-top holiday attraction.

But never mind the balance of the program, you'll get enough real clean fun and enjoyment out of Harold as 'Dr. Jack' to start you on a very, merry New Year.

We saw a pre-release showing of "The Headless Horseman," with Will Rogers as Ichabod Crane, several months ago and liked it, even when it was shown in the drab quiet of a projection room. And so we knew we were going to like it while lolling back in one of the Capitol's most comfortable divans yesterday.

Ever since we learned that "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" was to be fashioned into a picture, we have tried to make a selection of the actor who would most ideally fit into the character of the lanky Yankee school teacher. And always our thoughts have veered back to the quaint and laconic Rogers.

He gives a performance that is so thoroughly enjoyable that we, who have already sat through the film twice, want to see it again.

The surrounding program, especially the music, is as good as can be seen or heard anywhere.

Nearly every one knows just what the William Fox picture "Over the Hill" is, so we do not have to go further than to say that it is on for a fortnight's run at the 44th Street Theatre and would advise all those who have never seen it to avail themselves of this opportunity, and those who have already seen it one, two, or three or four times—to see it again.

'BOARDING-OUT' KIDDIES HAVE A CHANUKA PARTY

Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society Gives Annual Affair This Afternoon.

The Guardian Mothers of the Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society, Adolph Lewisohn is President, will give their annual Chanuka entertainment to the 300 "boarding-out" children under the direction of the Home Bureau of the H. S. G. S.

The entertainment will be given at the Young Women's Hebrew Association, No. 31 West 110th Street, this afternoon, at 3 o'clock.

Each child will be presented with a muffler, bathrobe and bedroom slippers, the gift of the Guardian Mothers.

SUNDAY WORLD WANTS WORK MONDAY WONDERS