

## Modern Stage Treatment Given Old Love Tragedy

By WALTER D. HICKMAN  
BEAUTY can be bestowed even upon a love tragedy.

Robert Browning once wrote "The Ring and the Book," which might be called a dramatic recital of the love affair of two souls which ends in a tragic success for both.

This dramatic soul poem or tragedy has been adapted for the stage by Arthur Goodrich and Rose A. Palmer as a new addition to the repertoire of Walter Hampden.

Mr. Hampden chose Indianapolis, the home of Riley, as the first city to see Browning's "The Ring and the Book" under the title of "The Ring of Truth." Last night at the Murat for the first time on any stage this play was presented.

Modern stage treatment, the use of

lights, the magnificent voice of Walter Hampden as Caponsacchi, a priest, who frees Pompilia (played by Carroll McComas) from a marriage of lust to Count Guido Franceschini (played masterfully by Ernest Rowan), the successful application of the so-called "movie flashback" upon the speaking stage, are all used to present the dramatic beauty of this soul tragedy.

The problem of this play rests not in revision of the script, but upon the ability of the producer to eliminate the loss of time from shifting from one scene to another. The method of recital is the same as used in the movies—the flashback. The play opens in the court at the Vatican Rome, during the trial of Count Guido for the brutal murder of his wife,

Pompilia, and her father and mother. The honor of the priest, Caponsacchi, is at stake. Guido attempts to impress the court at the Vatican of his right to murder, to defend his home. Then the priest begins his dramatic recital of the life story of Pompilia. This is done by means of the flashback.

When the delay between scenes is eliminated, I am sure that Mr. Hampden will have a highly dramatic soul theme for theater patrons of today. In the first place, the adapters have told a difficult story well. The story hangs together well, the long stage waits being the chief handicap at present. It was nearly midnight last night when the final curtain dropped. Theater patrons can not be expected to take their breakfast to a theater even to hear Browning or Shakespeare on the stage.

### Great Beauty of Theme and Acting Revealed

The play is in three acts and eleven scenes. The dramatic climax comes in the second act, last scene, where

Guido attempts by foul means to trap his wife and the priest at an inn. It is in the third act, second scene, that the brutal triple murder is executed in the same terrific manner that Bill Sykes dispatched Nancy. In their play the murderer uses a sword.

In the last scene, dramatic beauty is given when Pope Innocent XII orders the death penalty for Guido when the court attempts to shield Guido under an act of mercy. The Pope then declares Pompilia, a pure, good character and so restores the faith of Caponsacchi. Here we obtain justice for which Caponsacchi sought.

Miss McComas put real life blood into the character of Pompilia, as well as great beauty. She read her lines with amazing ease for the first performance. The rich voice of Hampden lifted the play at times to dizzy heights.



HAMPDEN AS HAMLET

murder recital. Mr. Goodrich, one of the authors, was present last night. A real

gramatic story is well told. The problem is to make it come within the production time of the modern stage and I am sure that this can be done.

### Many Interesting Names Found in Last Night Cast

The cast is full of interesting names and proves that Mr. Hampden means business.

The complete original cast is as follows:

Soldiers—Giotti ..... William Stephens  
Andrea ..... Charles Brokaw  
Meldior ..... Cedric Weller  
Montini ..... Robert Bufford  
Pope Innocent XII ..... William Sauter  
Clerk of the Court ..... Marcel Dill  
Judges—Tommati ..... C. Norman Hammond  
Venturini ..... Le Roi Opreti  
Scalchi ..... Allen Thomas  
Count Guido Franceschini ..... Ernest Rowan  
Caponsacchi ..... Walter Hampden  
Violanti Comparini ..... Mabel Moore  
Pompilia ..... Carroll McComas  
Pietro Comparini ..... Edwin Cushman  
Abate Paul (brother of Guido) ..... P. J. Kelly  
Bardi ..... Renaldo Evans  
Conti ..... Joseph Latham  
A Girl ..... Ruth Chorpensing  
The Governor of Arezzo ..... R. L. Norton  
Margherita, a servant of Guido, Mary Hall  
The Franciscan ..... Charles Emery  
A Boy ..... Margaret Barnstead  
Landlord at Castelnuovo ..... C. Norman Hammond  
Marinetta ..... Elsie Herndon Kearns

First Guard at Castelnuovo, Francis Avery  
Guards, Pessanta, Merry-makers at  
Carnival, etc.  
"The Ring of Truth" will, I think, be a worthy example of the lofty and sincere ideals of Mr. Hampden.

Other attractions on view today include: The Grand Players in "Polly With a Past" at English's; Carl Norman at Keith's; "Stranded" at the Palace; Mutual burlesque at the Broadway; Hampden in repertoire at the Murat; musical comedy at the Rialto; "Adam's Rib" at the Circle; "Jazzmania" at the Ohio and "Romance Land" at Mister Smith's.

### To Prevent Speculation

Seeking to prevent speculation in stock the Stevenson Gear Association has filed articles of incorporation with the secretary of State, Harry J. Quigley, president, said today. Efforts will be made to pool the stock through organization of a protective association.

## YOUTH, 16, LEAVES HOME

Police Asked to Search for Vernon Baldwin, Missing Two Days.

Miss Vonda Baldwin, 826 N. Tuxedo St., today asked police to search for her brother, Vernon Baldwin, 16, who left home April 2. She said he was with two other boys and they had planned to go to Canada, California or Vincennes.

Floyd Hughett, 13, of 952 S. Delaware St., was reported missing from home.

Missing From Insane Hospital  
James Stuckmeyer, 60, was missing today from the Central Hospital for the Insane. Police were asked to search for him.

Mule In City Market?  
White mule as well as soft drinks was sold by Lee Wickard, 33, of 230 E. Wabash St., at his city market stand, according to charges police had against him in city court today.

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in Indianapolis

THE W. H. BLOCK CO.

Largest Assortment and Best  
Values in Indianapolis

# FIRST AFTER-EASTER EVENT

Stock Adjustment Sale of

## New Millinery

Three Day Sale  
Thursday,  
Friday and  
Saturday

Three Day Sale  
Thursday,  
Friday and  
Saturday

THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE SEASON. The assortment is wonderfully complete. Hundreds of these hats were specially purchased for this occasion. The others were purchased for Easter shoppers,

but were not received until the middle of this week. So to adjust our stock and prepare for our summer merchandise, we are making this GREAT reduction.

Many of These Hats Are New Styles—Just Placed On Display—And Very Extraordinary at These Prices

## THE BASEMENT STORE

Presents

## 1,200 Trimmings and Sport Hats

560 SPORT HATS

### MATERIALS

Felt and Straw Combinations, Timbo, Tagal and Milan Hemp

### SHAPES

Off-the-Face, Poke Bonnets for Young Girls, Straight and Cushion Brim Sailors

EVERY WANTED COLOR

\$1.99

This is by far the  
biggest value-giving  
event we have  
ever attempted

Our advice is  
SHOP EARLY

The TRIMMED HATS Are All That Is New in  
Spring Millinery

### MATERIALS

Straw Cloth, Tagal, Timbo, Milan Hemp and Hair Braid

### TRIMMED

With Flowers, Ribbons and Novel Ornaments

### COLORS

Red, Copen, Brown, Sand, Pearl, Purple, Orchid and Black

Large Hats, Medium Hats and Small Hats

No C. O. D.—No Deliveries—No Layaways

## THE FOURTH FLOOR

Presents

## 1,000 New Hats

### DOMINATING COLORS

Such as Sand and Purple—Also Orchid, Copen, Pearl, Gray, Green, Berry, Cocoa, Brown, Navy and Solid Black

### TWO-TONE COMBINATION COLORS

White and Black, Pearl and Navy, Orchid and Purple

\$4.75

### NEWEST MATERIALS

Tagal, Hair, Straw Body Hats, Milan Hemp, Combination Material of Taffeta and Leghorn, Tagal and Hair

Trimmed With Flowers, Feathers, Ribbon, Taffeta and Fancies

Many New Arrivals in Tailored Hats  
in This Group

