

## 'LIL' IS A GAL WHO KNOWS BOOTLEG OIL

**Broadway** Comes to English's With Its Big Gang of Booze Fighters and Its Cabaret Crew of Wild Night Slang Throwers in Warm Harlem.

BY WALTER D. HICKMAN

Meet "Lil" and her crew of wild slang slingers and the underground crew of gunmen who spill bootleg booze in warm Harlem.

This gang is no Sunday school crew because they are cut from life and they have much to do in a corking melodrama of cabaret life, called "Broadway."

"Lil" is the veteran trouper in the Paradise Night Club, one of those girlie and booze hangouts located in a Southern exposure known as Harlem.

"Lil" knows her bootleg oil and the last you see of wild "Lil" is when she is all decked out in her swell cabaret gown but the bootleg oil will not let her wrinkle. But "Lil" is a wild dame because she knows that some men will only get married when they are "soused" and she lands "Porky" Thompson when he is lighted up like a lamp. The author's melodramatic comedy, strictly speaking, took real characters out of the "roaring forties" (near Harlem) and have put 'em on dress parade.

Some of these babies toss nifty legs for the entertainment of tired people who crave excitement in "speakeasies." Some of the girls are loud mouthed, coarse, crude, fighters and what not, but they are all characters of a certain class of night life in New York.

While the girls do the entertaining, the booze chasers and those who chase them are on the move. We have a gang leader murdered by another gang leader. Then everything gets mixed up and the guy who did the first plugging pays the price.

That is the background of "Broadway." There is some rough talk but it is human talk and honest. If you want the real goods put on the counter in glorious theater, then see "Broadway." Is it no Sunday school picnic and to those who know life, this show will be just as much a knockout here as it is in New York and Chicago.

I found the cast satisfactory in the principal roles. Frederic Howard is the Roy Lane, the cheap cabaret hoover who has a soul and a respect for a certain good girl known as "Billy" Moore, played by Betsy Jane Southgate.

These catch the true spirit of the good people mixed up with bad atmosphere, but they must "eat" while waiting for the breaks of the game known as show business.

The chief of the booze gang, Steve Grandall, is played in true villain style by Tom Morgan. He is subject to overacting in the last act, but this theatrical trick even helps many of the moments, in fact it is required.

"Lil" is played by Mary Johns in a true elegant blonde style. She makes "Lil" a real wise dame who, when she sits in a morris chair, actually fills it.

Walter Davis as Dan McCorn, the detective who is on the square, is excellent. He has that doomsday voice which makes "killers" think of death. Excellent work.

There are many other roles in this play and these are the ones that stand out.

"Broadway" is a wow show. It is real theater even with all of its loud talk and above all it is life of a certain brand.

If you want exciting theater, then see this one.

At English's all week.

FOOTSTEPS OF DAD THEY WALK

The name of the Foy family has been on the stage for many years. Eddie Foy, the dad, "made the act" and "it took him a long time to get the act together," says Charlie Foy.

In other words, I am trying to tell you about The Younger Foy's.

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into the act. It makes for good comedy and gets the laughs. And they are pretty fair singer taken as a whole.

The old country school room will have to chalk up another success, for it was the background for the presentation of the Hendrix Belle Isle. The songs and dances were done under the watchful eye of the school master who couldn't do anything with the tough boy. After the teacher had sent them all home with the message that he couldn't show that he was human and do anything with the boys the imp wasn't mean intentionally.

I have seen something new in the way of slack rope walkers. Instead of having the wire fastened at both ends the young lady in the act holds one end in her teeth while her partner does the walking and swinging. Incidentally he does a number of turns on the rope blindfolded.

Art Link is a diamond comedian of the German type. He tries to put across a lot of dialect comedy and fails. His songs, one about Schultz's band and the other of Elsie Shulzheim, are not so bad.

The Parker Family are a troupe of trapeze workers and do all their stunts in the air. They work entirely with the flying rings.

At the Lyric all week. (By the Observer.)

CONSIDERING  
MUTUAL BURLESQUE

Would say that the "Step Lively Girls" show at the Mutual is much better than the show of last week. One individual can not make a show when the rest of the company lay down on the job, but this week there is cooperation from all the company.

The chorus of the "Step Lively Girls" have a lot of pep and ginger and keep the show at high tension. The majority of the singing and dancing fall on Julia Arcand and Elsie Burger. Miss Burger is a good eccentric and a fair top dancer. She has personality that makes up for what she lacks in voice in her song numbers.

Harry Bentley, the featured comedian, has been with the company before. He is a clever dialect comedian and gets across with many subtle jokes. Playing opposite him is George Levy as a tramp comedian. These two introduce some new comedy angles into burlesque and get laughs with old ones.

The whole company was working at top speed when I saw them and the show had much more snap than some others I have seen. This company is presenting fair burlesque at Keith's all week.

LOOKING OVER  
NEW LYRIC SHOW

While Gilbert and Avery do classical acrobatic dancing they surround themselves with a balancing influence at the Lyric. In their "Rhinestone Revue" there are two clever little singers who do an imitation of the Duncan Sisters' "Topsy and Eva." A pair of tap toe dancers do several specialties in the act.

However the main attraction of the act is Gilbert and Avery. Miss Avery is quite a top dancer and has several acrobatic turns in her dance with Joe Gilbert assisting her. These two are quite good, I thought.

Jolly and Wild have an act that is well named. The female member of the company has a most unusual accomplishment in that she can sing as good a bass as many men. And she can do it well. And the other member. He must be Jolly, for they say that all fat men are good singers. The hit of the act is the old time song "And the Green Grass Grew All Around." I haven't heard it for years but it is still a good number.

The Bison City Four get away from the staid old quartet stuff, when they introduce a lot of hokum.

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