

VITAPHONE CATCHES SPIRIT OF BIG PLAY

Lionel Barrymore Aids in Recording a Drama Hit of Other Seasons for the Screen; Beautiful Story at Loew's Palace This Week.

BY WALTER D. HICKMAN

SOME wise individual once had the theory that a stage play as written could never fit the demands of the screen. And so many others, thinking the same, brought on an era of movie entertainment being presented under a stage name that had no more relation to the dramatic parent than an oyster has to a turkey.

But with the spoken word being brought into the movie theater by means of Vitaphone, we find both directors and actors following more closely the original version. That I find in the way that "The Lion and the Mouse" has been brought to the screen with the aid of Vitaphone. On the stage at this day, this play might seem very old fashioned, but on the screen it brings back many fine memories to those who are ancient in the way of the theater as well as to those who are not so ancient.

"The Lion and the Mouse" as a speaking movie gives additional proof that the spoken word movie has come to stay. It must have age to it just as the director. Here is dramatic entertainment brought to life on the screen by the spoken word. Lionel Barrymore was a star and an important figure on the speaking stage years before he ever thought of going on the screen. He now has an opportunity with the aid of Vitaphone to give his shadow the spoken word on the screen. He is still the sincere May McAvoy movie actor. That is the combination of the movie actor of tomorrow. May McAvoy registers fairly well in the scenes that she has with Barrymore, but she seems to be much better while acting and talking opposite William Collier, Jr. It fails to the lot of Miss McAvoy and Collier to carry the romantic and love element through to a "satisfactory" movie conclusion. Even stage plays of other days had the happy ending, and it is not surprising to find 'em on the screen. But you are rather happy over the idea that these two love birds get each other, and that the "dad" of our hero comes through as a regular human individual. It may not be realism but it is pleasant theater.

Ale B. Francis is a veteran actor and his voice comes over Vitaphone with marked sincerity, and with a whole lot of personality.

It seems to me that the director as well as the actors have caught the spirit of the playwright in bringing "The Lion and the Mouse" to the screen. There is probably more talking in this movie than any Vitaphone dramatic production that we have had in this city.

"The Lion and the Mouse" is just another proof that the speaking movie picture has come to stay. We all now have the right to take this method of entertainment seriously and to have faith in its future development.

Movietone this week is might interesting for many reasons. Especially because it shows the Democratic national convention just as it was in its big moments. These scenes will even give the Republicans a thrill. I am sure of that.

Of the Vitaphone variety subjects, Fred and Palace will probably cause the most discussion. They are well and favorably known in vaudeville. Their recorded dialect is amusing.

Now on view at the Apollo.

"TRELAWNEY" WILL ALWAYS BE GOOD THEATER

On the stage it often has been found wise to revive "Trelawney of the Wells."

Here is one story of the theater that will always speak the language of all people regardless whether they are actors.

And that story is "Trelawney of

In other words, you will find real types in life in "Trelawney."

You will be glad to know that Norma Shearer in the title role does such splendid work that you will at once want to place her among your ten best liked people of the screen. There is quaint sincerity to all she does and there is beauty even when she is just a wee bit angry with the grandfather of the rich, quality lad that she loves. Ralph Forbes plays opposite her in the pretty love scenes. Here is romantic love making that all of us will enjoy.

I believe that you will agree with me that "The Actress" is one picture that has the right to be presented at least once a year in the leading theaters of photoplay presentation. In other words this movie deserves to be revived just as the stage play Can I say more?

I am going to leave the stage show on this bill for discussion in another issue of this paper. There is so much that I want to discuss. I find it well to tell you about it on another day.

Be sure and see Norma Shearer in "The Actress."

Now at Loew's Palace.

"SMART FARCE IS ON VIEW AT CIRCLE

For some reason or other the Englishman, of the nobility, is not supposed to go in very strongly for the old "love 'em and leave 'em" idea.

Lord Gerald Brinsley tries to prove an exception to that rule, or whatever you might want to call it. Jerry, as this young man is known in "A Certain Young Man," has a passion for women, especially women who already have a husband.

While running away from some of these women, and their husbands, Jerry runs across an American girl, Phyllis Hammond. Jerry and a friend, Hubert Sweet-Escott, are on their way to Brittan to fish, but go to Blazebet instead. There Jerry becomes engaged to Phyllis and intends to marry her, also to tell her of his past, which is somewhat lurid, but Jerry has caught the spirit of the story, and he has permitted the eye of the camera to see and record all.

Somebody must have feared the results in calling this play by its original name. The movie production of "Trelawney of the Wells" is called "The Actress." I wish that movie tradition was so old as well as so powerful that this play could have come to the screen under the dignified title of "Trelawney of the Wells." In that way stage history as well as movie history could have been united in ever lasting fame. "The Actress" is not a bad name, far from it, but I do wish that the original title had been used.

There is quality and class to this entire picture. Here is a sweet story and as sweetly acted. Here is costume theater, but it is human theater. Here is as sweet a love story that has ever been written. It is such good theater that every character can be easily remembered.

The young, pretty American girl, with the dog Bozo, is played by Marcelline Day. Her part takes little acting, but it is well done. Honors are shared with Carmel Myers as Mrs. Crutchley, one of the pursuers,

and hidden, sings "Rose Marie."

Phyllis helps Jerry out of a mess

and a woman "Kiss Me Again."

They both sing the "Gypsy Love Song."

Powell brings in some of his life as driftwood. He plays the saxophone in an encore, part of which is sung. Nicely done.

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