

CHICAGO CIVIC OPERA WILL START ITS SEASON SOON

Many New Artists of International Reputation Will Make Their First American Appearances During the Winter Months.

BY HERBERT M. JOHNSON

CHICAGO, Sept. 15.—The eighteenth season of grand opera by a resident company in Chicago and the seventh since the Chicago Civic Opera was organized, will open in the Auditorium on Oct. 31, 1926, and will close on Jan. 26, 1929.

As this will probably be the last season in the old house, extra efforts have been made to present the most brilliant season of opera Chicago has ever witnessed.

During the season, something over one hundred performances will be given in Chicago and four in Milwaukee, and some thirty-four or thirty-five operas will be presented. It is unfortunate that it should be necessary to give this large number of operas in such a short season, but the Chicago public has not yet been educated to the point where it is willing to hear the same opera more than once during a season.

Consequently, for the 1926-27 season, the Chicago company will limit itself to important revivals, among which will be the following:

In Italian—"Norma," by Bellini, one of the older works which has always been successful when interpreted by a competent cast; "The Marriage of Figaro" by Mozart, which has not been given in Chicago since 1911-12; "Don Pasquale" by Donizetti, given during the 1919-20 season, and "Il Tabarro" ("The Cloak"), one of the Puccini "trittico" which has not been given in Chicago since 1919-20. In French—"The Spanish Hour," the one-act opera of Ravel, not given by the Chicago company since 1919-20; "The Tales of Hoffman" by Offenbach; "Lakme" by Delibes, and "Thais" by Massenet.

New scenery has been provided for "Norma," "The Tales of Hoffman," and "The Marriage of Figaro." The scenery for the last named opera has been designed by the same artist who provided the sketches for the "Don Giovanni" which received so much favorable comment when produced in 1926.

In addition to the operas mentioned, the standard repertoire will be selected from the following operas which have proven the most popular in the past few years: "Aida," "Barber of Seville," "La Boheme," "Boris Godunoff," "Madame Butterfly," "Cavalleria Rusticana," "Don Giovanni," "Elixir of Love," "The Force of Destiny," "Gianni Schicchi," "La Gioconda," "The Jewess," "Lucia di Lammermoor," "Love of Three Kings," "Mephistopheles," "Otello," "Il Pagliaccio," "Rigoletto," "La Tosca," "La Traviata" and "Il Trovatore" in Italian; "Carmen," "Faust," "Romeo and Juliet," and "Samson and Delilah" will be sung in French and Miss Garden will appear in one of her greatest roles—that of Melisande in Debussy's "Pelleas and Melisande." She will also repeat her success of last season—"Sapho." Following her usual custom of singing a new role each year, Miss Garden will appear during the coming season in "The Spanish Hour" for the first time in her career, and will provide a very interesting evening when she appears in two contrasting operas—"The Spanish Hour" and in "Judith." Honegger's ultra modern work which was given its American premiere in the 1926-27 season, "Die Fledermaus" (The Bat) will be given in English, as will "Hansel and Gretel" and in German, "Lohengrin" and "Der Rosenkavalier" (The Knight of the Silver Rose) will be heard.

This repertoire is believed to be the most varied and interesting which has yet been given, providing words of all classes in English, French, German and Italian. The casts to interpret these operas will be selected with great care.

Many new artists of international reputation will make their first American appearances during the season, selected from the most famous houses in Europe, the list includes: Maria Olszewska, great mezzo-soprano, who is one of the outstanding personalities of the lyric stage and who has met with great success in all the numerous opera houses in which she has appeared; Eva Turner, English soprano, who, with Claudia Muzio and Rosa Raisa, will form the greatest trio of dramatic sopranos in any one company; Marion Claire, the Chicago girl who has been appearing in Italian opera houses and also in Berlin; and Margherita Salvi, a young Spanish coloratura who has been singing in many of the large European opera houses.

The Boss



I. H. Herk

I. H. Herk is president and general manager of the Mutual Burlesque Association, a corporation that controls forty-seven theaters located in the principal cities, from Montreal to Louisville and from Boston to Minneapolis and Kansas City, as well as forty-four traveling companies.

There are approximately three thousand persons employed on the Mutual Circuit, of which more than fourteen hundred are engaged upon the stage.

The companies, by an ingenious system, follow one another around the "wheel" every week from the middle of August to the middle of May, thus assuring a season of forty weeks.

Herk personally supervises the operations of this entire organization from the executive offices of the association in New York.

He is 42 years of age and has been actively engaged in show business all his life, starting as a young man at the Valentine Theater, Toledo, Ohio.

Stage and Screen News

Madelaine Gray has been engaged for a revival of "The Command to Love." It will open in Brooklyn.

"Tipperary's Wife" by Edgar Maledon, secured for American production by a syndicate of Broadway theatrical managers, will place this sensational comedy-drama in theaters very shortly for a presentation.

On the stage of the new Craig Theater, which is the latest playhouse in New York. The premiere is set for an early evening in October.

Melville Burke, who has been directing the notable stock company at Elitch's Gardens in Denver, has closed his summer season and arrived in New York where he will prepare for the first play of his program for the season's production.

Claude Cooper, rated one of the most skillful actors on the American stage, is giving a well conceived, true and highly amusing characterization of the crooked sheriff in "The Front Page," the newspaper play that stands at the head of the season's new successes.

H. Bonfield, a St. Augustine real estate operator who took a year on Broadway as a theatrical producer, has been bitten worse than was first supposed. Mr. Bonfield plans to make two or more productions for Broadway before the end of the season. The first will be a mystery play.

Ralph Cullinan, whose plays heretofore have given him fame and not inconsiderable fortune, is winning laurels in a new field. He is acting in "Goin' Home," the fine war play that Brock Pemberton sponsors at the Hudson Theater. Mr. Cullinan's performance is one of the best in the play.

Whitford Kane for the past year associated with the unique Goodman Theater, Chicago, as director and star actor, is to appear in one of the de luxe touring companies of the Theatre Guild. He will have leading roles in "R. U. R." and "Marco's Millions." Both shows, as well as seven others, are now in rehearsal.

Ready for Work

Charles Rogers, Paramount's newest star, made his one and only radio "appearance" five years ago when his school board broadcast a program from a Kansas City station. Rogers was the leader of the orchestra.

Here Is New Star

Alice White, First National star, is getting ready to project her energetic personality into another film comedy, "Ritz Rosie," which Merrvyn LeRoy is to direct. Jack Mulhall will be co-starred in this picture, which is a modern, jazzy metropolitan story.

AMUSEMENTS

RIVERSIDE BALLOON ASCENSION SUNDAY AFTERNOON Hazel Bruce in Five Leaps

Riverside goes on its fall schedule this coming week and will be open Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons and nights as long as weather permits.

Cleveland Puppets to Be Here

Marionette Show Will Open Little Theatre Season.

HELEN HAIMAN JOSEPH of the Cleveland Puppet Theater, who will present three of her well-known marionette performances on next Saturday morning and afternoon, Sept. 22, at the Playhouse, Nineteenth and Alabama Sts., is one of the leading professional puppeteers in this country.

These performances compose the opening bill of the "Children's Hour," a series of special children's plays which the Indianapolis Little Theatre is to present throughout the coming season.

The Helen Joseph Puppets maintain a repertoire of twelve plays for their 1926-27 season, and perform before adult and high school audiences, as frequently as before young children.

For her Indianapolis appearance the plays scheduled by the Little Theatre are "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves," which will be given at 11 o'clock next Saturday morning; "Snowwhite," which is the first of the afternoon performances, at 2 o'clock, and "Pinnocchio," which is booked for 4 o'clock.

Mrs. Joseph first became interested in the artistry and beauty of the puppet theater when touring through Italy and France, about fourteen years ago.

After her return she created a marionette theater of her own in Cleveland, and later wrote one of the first books to be published on puppetry, entitled "A Book of Marionettes," which chronicles the history of this ancient art which flourished centuries ago in Egypt, Greece, Rome, as well as in China, Japan and Siam. Mrs. Joseph is also the author of "Princesses," a drama for marionettes, and "Ali Baba and Other Plays," a collection of plays for young children, as well as for puppets. Mrs. Joseph has translated some of Ivo Puhonny's works on "The Physiognomy of Puppets."

For All Children

Only plays which Mrs. Joseph, herself, has adapted to the puppet theater are included in her repertoire so that the Joseph versions of the well-known fairy tales and children's plays have become very popular among the school children of Cleveland, more than 60,000 of whom come annually to the Cleveland Art Museum to see these productions.

"The Life and Death of Dr. Pohannes Faust," taken from an old German puppet show, is one of Mrs. Joseph's outstanding adaptations.

A decided revival of puppet-play whose true origin is buried in antiquity, is manifest throughout the entire world today. In the United States, schools and colleges are taking an interest in marionettes and are producing plays with these tiny marmions as the actors and actresses. But of more significance is the fact that there are at least fifteen professional companies of marionettes touring the country today, which performances involve producing and costuming expenses as elaborate as any Broadway company, and require many months of rehearsals—exacting and "back breaking."

Ticket Sale

Tickets for the Joseph puppet plays are on sale at the Playhouse, or may be secured from Mrs. A. M. Gall-Sayles, general chairman of the "Children's Hour" of the Little Theater; Miss Mosamond Van Camp, vice chairman, Mrs. Benson J. Titus, director, or from Mrs. Raymond F. Mead and Mrs. George T. Parry, advisory board.

Broadway Pick-Ups

Ralph Cullinan, now acting in "Goin' Home," is the author of an Irish drama said by Eugene O'Neill to be one of the finest plays ever to come from an American pen.

Barry MacCollum, who has a queer and compelling part in "The Caravan" now being shown at the Klaw Theater, is possessed of a group of plays that have been produced at the Abbey Theater, Dublin.

Whitford Kane, absent from Broadway for a year, has returned to join the Theater Guild. He will play in "R. U. R." and "Marco's Millions." Both shows, as well as seven others, are now in rehearsal.

Ready for Work

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AMUSEMENTS



Left—Mack and Stanton, in a comedy offering, will be present on the new bill opening Sunday at the Lyric.



Right—Mildred Jeanette is a member of the cast of "Sporty Widows," opening Sunday afternoon at the Mutual.

Three Acts Top New Lyric Bill

The Five Maxellos Are on Vaudeville Program Here.

THE Lyric will offer its patrons a triple feature bill for the coming week, in which comedy will have the leading part.

The three outstanding features will include the Five Maxellos, Gene Barnes and Mable Drew and Florence Micareme & Co.

FIVE MAXELLOS—Known as vaudeville's greatest Risley sensation, coming to the Lyric direct from New York.

BARNES AND DREW—In a comedy skit "Pressing a Suit."

FLORENCE MICAREME AND COMPANY—In an ultra-modern expressionistic setting, a unique offering consisting of classical dancing, instrumental music and physical accomplishments which are extraordinary in every line.

BICKNELL—The "Model Baker" who offers a novelty displaying the humorous side to plastic art, comedy clay modeling, and presented with personality and showmanship.

NANCY FAIR—Possessed of unusual beauty and talent, Miss Fair is widely known on Broadway. She has been starred with Ernest Truex, played Fay Bainter's part in "East is West" and has been featured in many successful musical comedies. Miss Fair's offering is entitled "Bits of Life." Mildred Moore is at the piano.

MILLER AND PETERSON—Two dancing comedians whose talents are very diversified.

MACK AND STANTON—In a comedy offering, entitled "Home Sweet Home," in which a tramp attempts to break into jail. They offer some clever harmony singing and close with a surprise.

ON THE SCREEN—Mack Sennett comedy, "His Unlucky Night," a color classic, "Love Charms," Ko Ko Cats, cartoon comedy, and Pathé News.

Little Theatre



Mrs. Anna Marie Gall-Sayles

As chairman of the entertainments and plays for children at the Playhouse of the Little Theatre, Mrs. Gall-Sayles is a busy person. The first children's plays will be given at the Playhouse on next Saturday.

AMUSEMENTS



A TRIPPLE FEATURE

The 5 MAXELLOS!

IN VAUDEVILLE'S GREATEST RISLEY SENSATION

GEORGE MORTON and ROSLYN GREEN

In "Beautiful Flowers"

direct from the IMPERIAL VIENNA BALLET

Florence Micareme & Company

"a Classical Caprice Revue"

Bicknell in "The Modern Baker" Mack & Stanton Presenting "In the Jail House" Nancy Fair in "Bits of Life with Mildred Moore at the Piano" ON THE SCREEN Mack Sennett, "His Unlucky Night" Color Classic, "Love Charm" Ko Ko Cats Cartoon and Pathé News

MUTUAL
BURLESQUE THEATRE
365 Days Ahead of Them All
134 SOUTH ILLINOIS STREET
UNDER DIRECTION OF MUTUAL BURLESQUE ASSN. OF N. Y.

SPORTY WIDOWS
AND A CHORUS
OF YOUTHFUL CLEVER DANCING GIRLS

With
BILLY FIELDS
ESTHER LANG
NEARIE ARNOLD
HARRY MARTINI
GEORGE MONFRED
MILDRED JEANETTE
JACK SMYTHE

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