

EVEN A BARRYMORE SELECTS POOR PLAY

But Two Members of Famous Stage Family Are Making History by Appearing in Blackface for First Time.

BY WALTER D. HICKMAN

IT SEEMS to me that even Ethel Barrymore can select a poor play for her talents.

That was my thought last night after journeying to the Shubert theater in Cincinnati to see Miss Barrymore in "Scarlet Sister Mary."

Probably this woman has never chosen a play that is causing so much talk, for and against, as "Scarlet Sister Mary." For the first time in her life, Miss Barrymore is appearing in blackface as Sister Mary, called St. Mary, the Gullah Negress who does lot of birthing in Julia Peterkin's prize winning novel.

In addition to the strange make-up used by Miss Barrymore and her other white associates, this play is making stage history, because Miss Barrymore's daughter, Ethel Barrymore, is making her stage debut.

I wish that it could have been happier or more pleasant history for the debut of Miss Colt. Regardless of the vehicle, I would walk miles to see the Barrymores, any of them, making stage history.

As to the play I do not consider "Scarlet Sister Mary" as now being played, a good play or even a play. It is too sketchy. It seems to me that both Miss Barrymore and Daniel Reed, who made the novel into a "play," were afraid to create St. Mary in her many "birthing" moods as Julia Peterkin created her in book form as published by Bobbs-Merrill of this city.

I would like to be kind to Miss Barrymore, but I find that I can not honestly do it. I sincerely believe that this cast of white players can not capture the charm, tragedy and the superstition of these Negroes. Maybe no white cast in the world can do it.

If the answer is in the negative on the part of the majority, then all "Sister Mary" has to draw is the Barrymore name and the fact that she is appearing in blackface.

I am afraid that Miss Barrymore and the director decided to make Sister Mary too white both in dress and soul. Sister Mary in the book was miles away from being a lily.

Maybe they were afraid of too much realistic dirt, but the fact remains in my judgment that Sister Mary of the book is miles away from the type of character which Miss Barrymore has given the stage.

It is my personal opinion that Ethel Barrymore is playing Sister Mary in her regular drawing room style. It is only in the last act, meaning the last scene when Dunder dies in the arms of his mother, Sister Mary, that I felt the great power of Miss Barrymore.

Here is a most difficult play to produce, create and put over. It does not mount and fails to get started until the last scene in the last act. We do not have a well rounded characterization as yet on the part of Miss Barrymore.

The best in character work was done by Horace Braham as Budda Ben, Leo Kennedy as Cousin Andrew, especially Estelle Winwood as

because she is the daughter of a great woman.

And I do know that the audience when I was present enjoyed seeing mother and daughter take a curtain call.

From a scenic standpoint, "Scarlet Sister Mary" has been intelligently produced.

Miss Barrymore will be on the road for about four more weeks, planning to open in her own theater in New York Thanksgiving week.

I am glad, although the play failed to please me, that I saw Miss Barrymore in this play because stage history is being made—whether good or bad.

Indianapolis theaters today offer: "Amos n' Andy" at the Circle; "Monte Carlo" at the Indiana; "Playboy of Paris" at the Ohio; "Scotland Yard" at the Lyric; "Those Three French Girls" at the Palace; "Up the River" at the Apollo; movies at the Colonial and burlesque at the Mutual.

Seeks to Begin Truck Line

J. M. Powell of Brooklyn, Ind., has petitioned the public service commission for permission to operate a truck line between Indianapolis and Martinsville.

Interurban service between these points will be abandoned Oct. 31, by commission order.

'NO MORE WAR,' PERSHING PRAYS

'America Already Disarmed,' Says General.

By United Press

NEW YORK, Oct. 24.—"People say we should disarm; America already is disarmed," General John J. Pershing declares in an interview published in the November issue of the Country Home, out today.

The state of preparedness in this country, Pershing charges, is "unfortunately" back to the days before the World war in which he was the leader of the United States armies.

"I pray fervently that there will be no more war," Pershing says. "With all my soul I hate it."

"We know that we will not provoke a war. But what is there in history which authorizes us to conclude that some one else will not provoke one of these days? It is not a question of whether or not we believe in war."

"We do not believe in fires or incendiaries. We do not believe in crimes and gunmen. But we have fires and incendiaries and fires and

gunmen. And so we maintain fire departments and police force.

"We are all lovers of peace now. But somehow it seems possible to change us in a few months."

TALKS AT CAR CRASH,
DRAWS SOCK ON NOSE

Bystander Expressed Opinion On Fault; Ex-Pugilist Held.

By United Press

W. S. Gilpin, 26, East Fourteenth street, Apt. 302, today has a swollen nose, because he expressed an opinion about a driver involved in an auto accident Thursday night at Illinois and Sixteenth streets.

And Joseph B. Dinkins, 25, of 3059 North Illinois street, former pugilist, faces a charge of assault and battery for silencing Gilpin's opinions.

Gilpin told police he walked over to Dinkins' car after the minor accident and, having witnessed it, told whom he thought was to blame.

Dinkins took offense and swung, breaking Gilpin's glasses as well as bruising his face, police were told.

While an Indianapolis resident, Ragan lived with his wife and three daughters at 4111 East Washington street. At the time of his arrest for the Fisher (Ill.) attempted bank robbery he had been appointed to the superintendency of a large Chicago plant of the Linde company.

At the trial Thursday the Illinois

FREED OF BANK HOLDUP CHARGE

W. S. Ragan, Ex-Resident of City, Acquitted.

By United Press

CHICAGO, Oct. 24.—A federal grand jury Thursday returned true bills charging the 'Dowdle Brothers Company, general contractors, with \$200,000 income tax fraud.

George E. Q. Johnson, United States district attorney, said the indictments formed part of his plan "to blast corrupt politics in Chicago."

The Dowdle brothers' firm obtained many of the rich contracts let by former members of the sanitary district, most of whom since have been indicted on one charge or another involving graft.

The indictments named the firm, Thomas P. Dowdle, president, and Raymond R. Dowdle, treasurer.

Crawfordsville Man Dies

By Times Special

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ind., Oct. 24.—James M. Waugh, 71, president of the Oriental Brick Corporation, is dead after a short illness. He was a graduate of Purdue university and a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Bankers' Association sought to thwart application for Ragan's parole.

INCOME TAX FRAUD IS
CHARGED TO FIRM

Chicago Contractors Indicted in \$200,000 Shortage in Return.

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NEW AUXILIARY HEADS NAMED

Pocahontas Adjourn State Conclave Here.

By United Press

NEW OFFICERS OF THE Indiana Degree of Pocahontas, Red Men's auxiliary, began duties today following adjournment of their annual state convention here Thursday night.

Mrs. Josephine Caccady, Anderson, became great prophetess; Mrs. Clovie Nicholas, Indianapolis, great instructress; Mrs. Goldie Greenlee, Sullivan, great wrennah, and Mrs. Bessie Meadows, Wolcott, great pocahontas, all automatically advanced.

Elections were won by Mrs. Lucie Cuskadon, St. Paul, great minnehaha; Mrs. L. Cherry Ross, Shelbyville, great keeper of records, and Mrs. Osa Dauber, Connersville, great trustee.

Among those re-elected were Mrs. Ida Hasty, Marion, great keeper of wampum; Mrs. Lena Butterworth, Newcastle, and Mrs. Ella Wicker, Terre Haute, great trustees.



Ethel Barrymore



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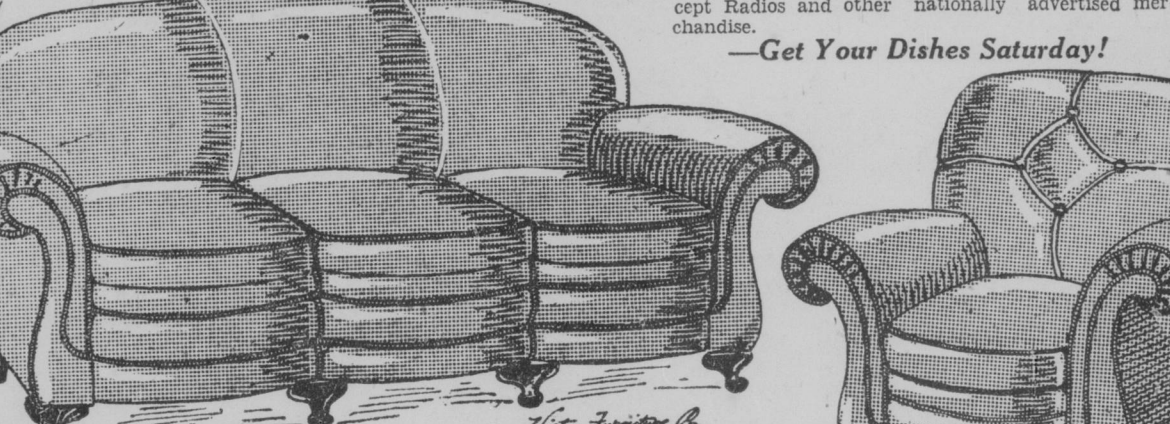


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