

Aged Actor's Portrayal of Orchestra Conductor Features 'Metropolitan'

George Marion Sr., 75, Who Almost Steals Honors From Lawrence Tibbett in Apollo Presentation, Thinks He Is at Peak of Career.

BY JOHN W. THOMPSON

When a man three-quarters of a century along the path of life, lifts his head from the pool of mediocrity and becomes an ace character actor, one is inclined to agree with Walter Pitkin about that "life begins at 40" stuff.

George Marion Sr., 75-year-old Hollywoodian, who gives an excellent portrayal of Peronelli, the orchestra conductor in Lawrence Tibbett's "Metropolitan," at the Apollo, doesn't believe in resting on the oars.

As Peronelli, Mr. Marion plays the role of a broken old orchestra conductor, once the idol of the continent, who comes out of retirement to aid his protégé, Mr. Tibbett, to success.

"I have never seen a good actor or actress," Mr. Marion said recently, "who was satisfied with his performance. Among the younger players, of course, you find smug satisfaction sometimes when they have done a particularly good piece of work, but never in a veteran."

Believes in Hard Work

Mr. Marion's only recipe for success is hard work and plenty of it. He spends weeks in preparing himself for even a small role. Several weeks before filming the picture, Mr. Marion visited Italian settlements around Los Angeles attempting to get the dialects, the customs and the mannerisms of the inhabitants. Throughout "Metropolitan," he keeps up a steady line of Italian chatter.

His most famous screen role was the part of "Ol' Chris," in "Annie Christie," three seasons ago, in which he played opposite the late Marie Dressler, and with Greta Garbo.

Constantly dissatisfied, Mr. Marion keeps plugging for bigger roles. His achievement in "Metropolitan" should be a boost for him. Instead of declining in strength as a result of his 60 years on the stage and screen, Mr. Marion claims he is now at the peak of his career.

Once a Producer

Once during his varied career, Mr. Marion was a producer. So good was he that he now treasures a watch given him by the late Flo Ziegfeld. On the back appears the inscription, "To George Marion, the greatest stage producer in the world."

Mr. Marion and his son, George Jr., believe in sticking together. The son wrote the script of "Metropolitan," in collaboration with the author, Bess Meredyth. The two Marions are constant companions and have worked together in several productions.

"Metropolitan," starring Mr. Tibbett, Virginia Bruce, Luis Alberni and Alice Brady, features selections from "Carmen," "Pagliacci," "The Barber of Seville." Mr. Tibbett also sings several semi-classical songs and makes one brief attempt at crooning.

Miriam Hopkins Set for Role on Stage

Arrangements have been made and permission has been granted for Miriam Hopkins to appear in a stage production as soon as her current season's picture schedule is completed.

Miriam Hopkins now appearing in "Barbara Coast," is working in "Splendor," and soon will go before the cameras in a third picture.

Present plans call for a trip to London where the star will have the principal role in a new, and as yet untitled, play by A. Milne to be produced by Gilbert Miller.

She is to return to Hollywood after the run of the Milne play in London.

Filming of Wells Story Nearing End

"Things to Come," the Alexander Korda production of H. G. Wells' screen play, is near completion. The final scenes are now before the camera after months of preparation and research.

Furniture and costumes of the twenty-fifth century have been designed and constructed with the environment of the future world developed to the last detail. The entire production is under the personal supervision of Mr. Wells, with technical details in the hands of the famous author's son, Frank Wells.

Stan Laurel to Fish in Gulf of Mexico

Times Special

HOLLYWOOD, Nov. 4.—Fishing isn't so good this time of year in the Pacific off California. So Stan Laurel will board his 45-foot yacht next month and cruise to the Gulf of Mexico in search of swordfish and tuna.

Meanwhile the comedian is buying new equipment and reading all the books on fishing that he can find, to make sure that the big fellows won't get away.

Barber Weathers Pneumonia Attack

Times Special

HOLLYWOOD, Nov. 4.—George Barber has successfully passed the crisis in an attack of pneumonia, and is well on his way to recovery.

Barber had just completed his last scene in "Millions in the Air" when he was stricken. He is due to return soon for a part in "The Milky Way."

His recent absence broke a five-year record of not missing a day of filming on account of illness.

Cast in Italian Film

Phillips Holmes, currently playing opposite Anne Shirley in "Chatterbox," is the only American actor to appear in an Italian talking picture. During a recent European trip he played a leading role in the Italian-made "Divine Spark."

Cast in Italian Film

Charles Butterworth, comedy star of stage and screen, will star in a radio theater presentation of "The Milky Way" tonight from 8 to 9.

Gladys Swarthout, Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano, is to be guest during "Hell's Angels" at 8:30 over an NBC-WEAF network. Miss Swarthout will sing from Hollywood where she has been making her first starring motion picture, "Rose of the Rancho."

An anniversary concert in tribute to the late John Philip Sousa will be played by the Army concert band under Frank L. Johnson, director, at 8:30 over the NBC-WJZ network. Mrs. Sousa, widow of the "March King," will be heard on the program, speaking from New York City.

Veterans Seen in Circle Films



May Robson and Edward Everett Horton

Two veterans of the screen have roles in the pictures at the Circle. May Robson plays in "Three Kids and a Queen," and Edward Everett Horton, fresh from a hit role in "Top Hat," is the chief entertainer in "His Night Out."

WHERE, WHAT, WHEN

APOLLO

"Metropolitan," Lawrence Tibbett's first picture in four years, at 11:30. 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30.

CIRCLE

"Three Kids and a Queen," with May Robson, William Powell and Edward Everett Horton, at 11:30. 4:30, 7:45 and 10:45.

INDIANA

"Rendezvous," with William Powell and Rosalind Russell, at 11:15. 4:20, 7:30, and 10:45. Also "Guard That Girl," at 12:45, 3:30, 6:20, and 9:15.

LYRIC

"The Case of Lucky Legs," on the screen at 11:30, 2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:20. On the stage, Roxie Ates and others, at 1:05, 4:05, 6:45, and 9:20.

OHIO

Hell's Angels, with Jean Harlow and Ben Lyon, at 1:45, 4:24, 7:14, 9:44. Also Major Bowes' amateur short subjects, at 1:28, 4:07, 6:37, 9:27.

W.M. FARNUM

KNOWS STAGE CELEBRITIES

A stage star for more than 20 years on Broadway, Harry Beresford has known nearly every prominent theatrical personage in this country during the last half-century. He is currently playing in Gene Raymond's new starring vehicle, "Seven Keys to Baldpate."

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