

Lyric Fills Christmas Stockings for Patrons; Jungle Jibber at Apollo

Etel Waters, 'First Lady' Are Bright Lights on Program.

By JAMES THRASHER
The Lyric really has filled a stocking for its patrons this festive week. You can reach down in and pull out some torch singing, political intrigue, swing music, feminine hair-pulling and some illuminating instruction on doing the "shag."

Brightest lights on the Christmas tree are Ethel Waters, who heads the stage show's "Hollywood Harlem Revue," and "First Lady," that bright comedy by George S. Kaufman and Katharine Dayton which, like most good things, has found its way to the screen.

This is Miss Waters' first vaudeville appearance in Indianapolis. So a great many more people, for less money, will be able to contemplate the enormous success of this songstress. No one yet has quite explained it. With no particular voice, nor any particular beauty, she has been packing audiences in for years at \$4.40 tops.

Whether Miss Waters is singing to you, with a sot in her voice, about her lonely plight in "Stormy Weather," or whether, with an expansive grin, she launches forth on an extremely frank and amusing bit of advice to the lovelorn, you most likely will find yourself quite taken in. For Miss Waters is a born showman. And to correct the gender in that statement would be to do her an injustice.

Songs Are Startling

Some of the songs may strike you as a bit startling. But I don't think they deserve too great condemnation, even at popular prices. (Of course, they're commonplace, "big time" at revue time.) They spring from the race of uninhibited children of nature who felt little pressure of Victorian influence.

Most Negro revues can be relied upon to offer you a lot of energetic effort, spontaneous fun, expert dancing and torrid music. This one has all these on an acute stage. A pair of young men wear themselves to a frazzle in presenting as good dancing as the Lyric stage has seen in months. The band is large and versatile. They split up into a trombone quartet, a choir of seven saxophones and a small group that gives you "swing" in the Benny Goodman Quartet manner. And there are two more teams that are mildly droll.

"First Lady," on the stage was one of the wittiest, most revealing comedies of recent seasons. It tells of the feud of two Washington ladies, wives of the Secretary of State and a Supreme Court Justice. The quarrel started when Irene Hubbard, the jurist's wife, stole Lucy Wayne's cook. It ends only with the Secretarial launch on a drive toward the White House.

Meanwhile, Lucy almost has ruined her own chances and her husband's, by dragging the red-hering of Judge Hubbard's presidential possibilities across the trail of one of Irene's protégés. Through it all runs a vein of hilarity as the potent feminine influence in our law-making and statecraft is revealed.

Supporting Cast Good

Knowing Kay Francis as a sort of glorified mannequin, you may be surprised at the good job she turns in. In fact, if you didn't see the stage play here, you may be delighted. But those of us who saw Jane Cowl in the same role at English's will find that talented lady's presence hovering about the Lyric screen, much to Miss Francis' disadvantage. The latter's dramatic sins of omission are pretty numerous.

There is an excellent supporting cast, in which Verree Teasdale, Walter Connolly and Marjorie Rambeau are particularly good.

And the scene of the judge's "notification," coming on the heels of a violent quarrel with Irene, is as funny here as it was on the stage. You'd better go and see just how funny that is.

URGE CENTER FOR SHOW VETERANS

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 25 (U. P.)—A community center in Hollywood for veterans of the show business was proposed to the Los Angeles City Council today by Matt Brooks and Ed Davis, screen writers.

The center would carry on the tradition of Broadway and 42d St., and the streets would be named for their New York counterparts. It would be dedicated to film and radio people formerly associated with vaudeville and the theater.

BOLES SPONSORS BOY SINGER, 14

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 25.—John Boles, movie leading man, arranged today to bring to Hollywood a 14-year-old boy whose voice he heard while visiting a wheat ranch in Canada.

The young singer is Alfred Baker. Boles first heard him two years ago. He recently received records of the boy's voice, played them, and sent for Alfred.

AMBASSADOR

ILLINOIS AT MARKET
BIG GALA HOLIDAY
2-HIT SHOW!
Only 20¢ to 2

Eddie CANTOR
IN "ALI BABA GOES TO TOWN"
TONY MARTIN, ROLAND YOUNG
JUNE LANG, BOBBY HOUCK
No. "Fight for Your Lady"
Hit JOHN BOLES

MYRNA SENDS HER GREETINGS



To your holiday greetings add that of Myrna Loy, who takes the above method of wishing a Merry Christmas to her fans in Indianapolis.

IN NEW YORK—By GEORGE ROSS

President of International Swing Society Believes Off-Beat Is Here to Stay.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—It was just the other night that John Henry Hammond, who knows more about swing than most men, and your correspondent were hot in debate about the longevity of the offbeat.

As president of that international swing-addict society, Le Jazz Hot, this man Hammond argued that swing was gaining greater respect in the music world with each passing night. Your correspondent (whose ears have long been attuned to the din of W. 52d St.) argued hopefully that swing was on the way out.

So what happened? So S. Hurok,

WHAT, WHEN, WHERE

APOLLO

"Hitting a New High," with Lily Pons; Jack Oakie, at 1:37, 4:10, 7:15 and 10:15. "King Solomon's Mines," with Cedric Hardwicke, Anna Lee, at 2:54, 5:37 and 9.

CIRCLE

"True Confession," with Carole Lombard, Fred MacMurray, at 11, 1:30, 4:30 and 7:30. "Daughter on Shanghai," with Anna May Wong, at 12:45, 3:15, 6:27 and 9:15.

INDIANA

"Wells Fargo," with Joel McCrea, Bob Burns, at 1:47, 4:30, 7:00 and 9:30.

KEITH'S

"Prove It," Schneider's Texans on stage, at 1:30, 4: 6:30 and 9:20. "A Bride for Henry," with Warren Hull, at 12:30, 3:30, 6:30 and 9:30.

LYRIC

"Man-Proof," with Myrna Loy, Fred MacMurray, at 2:30, 4:55, 7:30 and 10:30.

NEW YORK

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AMBASSADOR

"All Baba Goes to Town," with Eddie Cantor, also "Fight for Your Lady."

ALAMO

"Hollywood Roundup," with Buck Jones, also "Charlie Chan on Broadway."

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