

English's Next to Be That Hardy Perennial, 'Blossom Time,' Dec. 1

Another Long-Lived Favorite, 'Tobacco Road,' Coming Christmas Week to Satisfy Opposite Tastes; 'What a Life' Folds Up.

By JAMES THRASHER

English's schedule of revival services for December offers two concrete and contradictory examples of American theatrical taste. "Blossom Time," which comes back again for three days beginning Dec. 1, would seem to reaffirm the suspicion that hokum with music is a deathless ingredient of the drama. "Tobacco Road," which will take its fourth stand during Christmas week, provokes the thought that stern reality is our dish.

You can take your choice, for there are arguments to support both theories. At any rate, he is known that "Tobacco Road" will begin its sixth consecutive Broadway year in about a fortnight. It has been on the road for nearly five years, during which time the initial critical lambastings have been forgotten, familiarity has buffeted the shock of Jeeter Lester's profanity and personal habits, and the play seems to be surviving on its not inconsiderable dramatic merits.

Best of 'Jeeters' Coming

For the coming engagement, Indianapolis will see John Barton as Jeeter. He is the uncle of James Barton, who succeeded Henry Hull and James Bell as Jeeter early in the New York run and has abode on Tobacco Road since then, except for a brief vacation this summer when the uncle took over the part.

To this writer, who fancies himself something of a Jeeter Lester connoisseur by this time, the elder Barton does the best job of the three actors who have played the part here. His predecessors were Charles (Slim) Timblin, of vaudeville fame, and Taylor Holmes, who was the vastly amusing Secretary of the Treasury in "I'd Rather Be Right."

Incidentally, Manager Vincent Burke of English's predicts that our imminent "Blossom Time" cast is the best yet. The principals are Everett Marshall (the singer, not the wrestler), who will play Franz Schubert; Charlotte Lansing, Mary McCoy, Roy Cropper and Douglas Leavitt, who supplies the "comedy relief" and who made a vaudeville appearance at the Lyric last summer.

Tours Annually for 15 Years

It is interesting to note that "Blossom Time" has toured every season since its first production, nearly 15 years ago. In the course of time it has hung up many attendance and endurance records, outdistancing such popular musicals as "The Student Prince," "The Desert Song," "Rose Marie" and several others which at one time seemed here to stay and stay.

Mr. Burke isn't certain how many times "Blossom Time" has played here, but he thinks it must be nearly nine.

What promised to be English's busiest December in many years found a breathing spell today when George Abbott's comedy, "What a Life," folded its tents. The play was to have been seen here for three days beginning Dec. 8.

That still leaves the Christmas month with four attractions, only one of which will be new. "The Women" will play a return engagement for a half-week beginning Dec. 5, and the highly touted "Shadow and Substance" will be with us on Dec. 16 and 17.

This is the Broadway hit of last season (and the past summer) which rocketed its author, the \$30-a-week Glasgow school teacher, Paul Vincent Carroll, to fame and fortune in true storybook fashion. Road cities will see the original Broadway cast, headed by the three distinguished principals, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Julie Haydon and Sara Allgood.

An interesting possibility in our unpredictable theater season is the appearance here of Sinclair Lewis in his new play, "Angela's Ashes." The play, now in rehearsal, has Fay Wray as its costar and, according to rumor, its coauthor.

Mr. Lewis made his first appearance as an actor this summer at Cohasset, Mass., in a revised version.

Leopold Godowsky, Pianist And Composer, Dies at 68

NEW YORK, Nov. 22.—Piano playing "in the grand manner" has lost another exponent with the death here yesterday of Leopold Godowsky. The pianist-composer died at Lenox Hill Hospital after a long illness. He was 68.

Mr. Godowsky was a survivor of the "golden age" of Liszt and Rubinstein, which also produced such famous living artists as Paderewski, Hofmann and Rosenthal.

Born in Poland, the pianist toured his own country and Germany when he was 9 and made his first American tour with the violinist, Ovide Musin, when he was 14. Two years later he returned to Europe for study with the French master, Saint-Saens.

A favorite of royalty, Mr. Godowsky gave several command performances, was appointed director of the Imperial Royal School for Piano by the Austrian emperor and later made Imperial Royal Professor of the first rank.

Married an American, Mr. Godowsky married an American, Miss Frieda Saxe, in 1901, and later settled in this country. His son, Leo Godowsky, is a violinist, and his daughter, Dagmar, was a star of silent films.

Among the pianist's musical posts in this country were those of editor-in-chief of the Art Publication Society.

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'TOUGH GUYS' AT CIRCLE THURSDAY



Denises Are Guests Here

Explorers Add to Drama Revealed in Film.

When Africa speaks through the medium of Mrs. Leila Roosevelt Denis, one is inclined to listen. For Mrs. Denis, beyond question, is an attractive, as explorer as ever trekked across the Sahara in a truck, helped shoot pictures of an elephant roundup or sat down to a pygmy version of Mullaigha stew in the interest of science and the cinema.

The Denises were in town today as guests of the Universal Club, appearing at the Indianapolis Auto Show and on a WFBM broadcast. Mr. Davis whose first name is Armand, was cornered by a feminine reporter in their room at the Hotel Lincoln, leaving Mrs. Denis to the writer. That was all right, too.

The couple's latest African picture, "Dark Rapture," was previewed last night, and it is the sort of film to stimulate conversation. Only headlines and speaking engagements kept the interview from going far into the night, for after 11 months in the Belgian Congo, the Denises fund of stories is almost inexhaustible.

Saw Pygmy Bridges The expedition, sponsored by the Belgian Government, took them among the pygmies and to the tribe of giant Watusis. They got pictures of pygmy bridge building, the ceremonial dances of seven-foot Watusi tribesmen, a Sahara sandstorm, 40-foot heater and ferns as tall as trees in the Watusi country. And, most thrilling of all, the capture of wild elephants and the party's escape from a roaring jungle fire.

These scenes, included in "Dark Rapture," make up only a few thousand feet of the 12,000 feet of pictures and 25,000 feet of sound track obtained. Most of the pictures, of a scientific nature, are the property of the Belgian Government.

Mrs. Denis had time to give some further information on the vivid pictures seen last night. The pygmies, she explained, are unbelievably primitive. Their own language has been lost, and their vocabulary consists of only about 60 or 70 words picked up from Negro tribes. They have watched the Negroes forging iron arrow heads for centuries, yet lack any capacity to imitate them.

Engineering Amazing In matters of the forest, however, they are at home and amazingly resourceful. Their vine bridges across the rivers are believed to be a survival of ancient Egyptian culture. Though there are only about 20,000 of these tribesmen, they rule an agricultural nation of three million by the ancient feudal system.

Mrs. Denis is the First Lady's second cousin, but was pleased to recall, at the interview's close, that the conversation had stayed close to Africa to the exclusion of politics. J. T.

PHOTO REQUEST

Latest request for an autographed photograph of Robert Taylor comes from the library of the Appalachian State Teachers College in Boone, N. C.

Incidentally, the film has collected some glowing New York reviews. As you know by this time, Ray Milholland, local author, wrote the book from which the play was made. His brother, Charles, made the book's screen synopsis and sold it to 20th Century-Fox. But a card from W. M. Bailey brings further enlightenment.

The Milhollands of 'Submarine Patrol' fame have poked a little fun at their brother, Don, writes Mr. Bailey, "by casting the character Professor" to look exactly as Don did when a youth that age. See photographs at E. M. T. H. S. of the June, 1913, class.

Probably the literary Milholland team didn't do any deliberate fun-poking at their brother, for Charles has stated that when the deal was closed they left the screen script in the laps of the studio gods. But it is nice to know that "Submarine Patrol" can be recommended as a family picture—in every sense of the word.

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He had been in virtual retirement for several years. A prolific composer and arranger, he contributed many brilliant transcriptions to piano literature.

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OPERA—OFF THE RECORD

NEW YORK, Nov. 22 (U. P.).—The Metropolitan Opera opened the new season last night. There were enough diamonds and emeralds and gold around the "golden horseshoe" to stock a Tiffany's and enough brocades and silks and satins to reach from here to St. Louis.

Society and finance were resplendent in the boxes and the orchestra and the music lovers were crowded rather uncomfortably in the balcony and the aisles. All in all, it was a brilliant occasion.

At about the time the dowagers and the debutantes were lading themselves with necklaces, tiaras, brooches and bracelets, and the French maids were bringing in the wine wraps and the chauffeurs were taking the limousines around to the front, the ghost of another opera and another Metropolitan—whose music had not been a local thing, but had penetrated to every corner of the country—was being waited unostentatiously over the city.

The managers of the little broadcasting station, WQXR, had gotten hold of some very old phonograph recordings by Geraldine Farrar—the very mention of whose name brought back to their memory Caruso, Scotti, Melba, Journet, Chablapin, all familiar personages even to the schoolboy of their day. The station intended to broadcast the records for novelty's sake and someone thought it would be nice to have Miss Farrar around to comment to the radio audience between records, so, without much thought that she would accept, they invited her.

Sang English Ballads for Kaiser Miss Farrar, white-haired now at 58, was delighted. She intended to come down from her Connecticut home, where she has been, in retirement for seven years, for the first night of the opera, and on her way she dropped by to bring to life again for an hour the glories of her career.

Wistfully, she recalled that 36 years ago when she made her debut with the German Imperial Opera, her German was so bad she had to sing an Italian opera, Il Trovatore. And from the wax poured the silvery, girlish beauty of the voice that had been hers. When the Kaiser had her sing for him privately, he

liked English ballads, she said, because his grandmother was Queen Victoria, and the Geraldine Farrar of 1904 sang an English ballad.

And from the wax poured the youthful lilt of Farrar's Carmen singing the Habanera, which doubtless recalled to those old enough, the Farrar of 1908, the most beautiful of the prima donnas.

'Stood Hand-in-Hand and Sang' She didn't say what she thought as she listened to the voices of her dead friends—Scotti, Caruso, Journet, Chablapin—come strong and clear from the wax, blended beautifully with her own. But her voice was exultant when she said: "Well, I'm off for the opera. Goodnight."

At the opera, she heard Verdi's "Otello," the great opera of his final or "child" period. She heard Maria Callas, the Neapolitan soprano, make her American debut as Desdemona, the role she used to sing, Martinelli as Otello, Tibbett as Iago.

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Five Named New Movie Quiz Judges

Author, Tennis Star and Scout Head to Help Pick Winners.

Judges have been announced for the \$250,000 Movie Quiz contest which ends Dec. 31. They are Bruce Barton, Mrs. Ogden Reid, Dr. James E. West, Mrs. Helen Willis Moody and Henrik Willem Van Loon.

Three of the judges are too well known to need an introduction.

WHAT, WHEN, WHERE

APOLLO
"If I Were King," with Ronald Colman, Frances Dee, Basil Rathbone, at 12:25, 3:45, 6:55 and 9:55.
"You'll Take a Fling," with Joel McCrea, Andrea Leeds, at 11:12, 2:22, 5:32 and 8:42.

CIRCLE
"Submarine Patrol," with Richard Greene, Nancy Kelly, Preston Foster, at 12:25, 3:45, 6:55 and 10:05.
"Always in Trouble," with Jane Withers, at 11:30, 2:35, 5:45 and 8:55.

INDIANA
"Angels with Dirty Faces," with James Cagney, Pat O'Brien, Humphrey Bogart, Ann Sheridan, "Dead End Kids," at 12:30, 3:37, 6:44 and 9:51.
"Swing That Cheer," with Tom Brown, Andy Devine, at 11:12, 2:24, 5:31 and 8:43.

LYRIC
"The Shining Hour," with Joan Crawford, Margaret Sullivan, Melvyn Douglas, Fay Bainter, at 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55 and 10:30.
"Blondie," with Penny Singleton, Arthur Lake, at 11:15, 2:30, 5:45 and 8:50.

Glen Gray and His Casa Loma Orchestra, with Cass Daley, on stage at 1:30, 2:35, 5:45 and 8:50.
"Torchy Goes Her Man," with Glenda Farrell, Barton MacLane, on screen at 11:30, 2:35, 5:45 and 8:50.

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The greatest enjoyment you can have in a motion picture theatre is a visit with the happy Hardy Family. To share their joys and heartaches, to howl with Mickey, to sigh with Sister's youthful romances, to open your heart to the Judge and his kinfolk—these have brought the Hardys close to all Americans. It is a pleasure to announce that their new picture is more delightful than those which have gone before—a merry, hilarious, thrill-filled entertainment.

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NEW GARFIELD "THE RAGE OF FABLES" Geo. Brent "RACKET BUSTERS" SANDERS "PORT OF REVENGE" Melvyn Douglas "FAST COMPANY"

ST. CLAIR "SING YOU SINNERS" "CAMPUS CONFESSIONS" UPTOWN "TOO HOT TO HANDLE" "SONS OF THE LEGION" TALBOTT "THREE LIPS HAS NANCY" "THE GREAT WHITE TRAIL" REX "ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND" "LAUREL AND HARDY 'BLOCKHEADS'" EAST SIDE "610 E. Wash. Herbert Marshall Barbara Stanwyck Randolph Scott 'THE TEXANS'" BIJOU "ALL-AMERICAN SWING" "RIDIN' THE LONE TRAIL" "DICK TRACY" NO. 4 STRAND "First City Run—March Twins" "PENROD'S DOUBLE TROUBLE" "CAMPUS CONFESSIONS" "LONE RANGER"—Once Only THURS. MATINEE—5 HITS "THE ROYAL HUNTER" "ROOM SERVICE"—Marx Bros. Donald Duck Cartoon PARKER "ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT" Alice Brady "LADY TUBBS" RIVOLI Rita Ross—Eithel Newman "STRAIGHT FLIGHT AND SHOW" Wayne Morris—Claire Trevor "VALLEY OF THE GIANTS"