

## Miss Cornell Captivating in New Comedy

Audience Cheers 5 Minutes; Play Abounds in Hilarious Comment.

By JAMES THRASHER

As Indianapolis' recent dramatic history goes, last night's opening of "No Time for Comedy" at English's must be put down as a red-letter occasion. This should be admitted even by the categorical objector to the cinema influence which transforms a play's inevitable tryout into a "world premiere."

After all, it isn't every day that we are permitted the adventurous experience of buying a theatrical pig in a poke, and of viewing a new play by Mr. Behrman and a new role for Katharine Cornell without the prejudice of a single preconceived notion.

The play's title in itself, gives an inkling that Mr. Behrman, a brilliant purveyor of inspired small-plot, might have something new up his sleeve. But, in addition to any novelty, he still seems to have his tongue in his cheek—a familiar gesture.

### Two Angles of Approach

"No Time for Comedy" presents two angles of approach. One is the triangular plot, which hangs conveniently in every dramatist's front hall. The other might be interpreted as Mr. Behrman's rather sardonic defense of his own type of writing—a type which we may hopefully count on to enrich our enjoyment for many years to come.

I have the fanciful notion that the author may have looked upon his coartists of the Playwrights' Company, noted their brave and current preoccupation with American democracy and the pitfalls that surround it, and decided he ought to look into it. Having done so, he manages to make a good case for living a happy and realized life in the face of brutality elsewhere.

At least it is playwright, Gaylord Easterbrook, and his actress wife, Linda, who are the chief protagonists. Gay has been reasonably content to write witty and successful comedies for Linda until his meeting with Amanda Smith.

### He Takes It Seriously

Amanda makes a play for Gay's affection by the ageless trick of finding hidden depths and latent talents in his creative gifts. Gay, being more playwright than lover, takes the buildup seriously and decides to abandon comedy and come to grips with reality.

Linda sees him as a delightful, if somewhat petulant child, and consequently adores him. And, just as surely Gay is driven to childish revolt by her gentle, amused and exasperating way of keeping one mental jump ahead of him.

The situation is summed up neatly in Gay's speech to the effect that "I hate you because you're so much smarter than I am; Mandy massacres my ego, and I like it."

### Down the Wrong Alley

So Amanda goads him on to a play about death and immortality, which is not down his alley. And Amanda's cold, precise husband in turn falls in love with Linda.

When Gay suggests a "honeymoon" to Loyalist Spain (this is before the surrender) to "find him self," Amanda begins to wail. And Linda finally solves the whole affair by giving Gay a new toy in the form of a play about Amanda and herself.

### Miss Cornell Delighted

Miss Cornell, in her real debut as a comedienne, gives a captivating performance. She gives Linda a delightful, heart-warming poise and grace, and she envelopes Linda's confident intelligence in a subtle radiance of amusement. Even on opening night, it was a consummate job.

In Laurence Olivier Miss Cornell has made a most fortunate choice of a leading man, handsome and generously blessed with the gift for making the most of some excellent opportunities. Margalo Gillmore and John Williams are satisfying as the other principals, and Robert Flemming does justice to a small but rich assignment. Nor would the review be complete without mention that Gee Gee Smith has a great time with a grand bit for the Negro maid.

It really was a remarkably seasoned performance, as first performances go, for which Guthrie McClintic's meticulous artistry of direction may be thanked. The audience—an Indianapolis audience, mind you—cheered for nearly five minutes after the final curtain. During this time the modest Mr. Behrman kept inconspicuously to his orchestra seat and mingled his own tribute to the actors with the general applause.

**TO NITE AT NEIGHBORHOOD THEATRES**

**WEST SIDE**  
STATE 2202 W. 10th St.  
"UP THE RIVER" *Joan Martin*  
"BILLY THE KID RETURNS!"

**SOUTH SIDE**  
New Garfield 2208 Sherry St.  
"SWEETHEARTS" *Nelson Eddy*  
"YOUNG FUGITIVES"

**GRANADA** 1011 VIRGINIA AVE.  
TONIE, SAT. & SUN.  
NORMA SHEARER *Clarence Brown's* production  
"GONE WITH THE WIND"  
"Idiots Delight"

**EMERSON** 4639 E. 10th St.  
15c  
1-Pat O'Brien *Joan Blondell*  
2—"MR. HOLO'S LAST WARNING"  
3-Jackie Cooper *SCOUTS AT THE CIRCUS*  
4-Betty Boop *Cartoon*

**IRVING** 2447 E. WASH.  
20c  
"SWEETHEARTS" *Joan Martin*  
"CONVICTED" *Plus Chas. Quigley*  
"THE ARIZONA WILDCAT" *John Wayne*  
"BURN 'EM UP, O'CONNOR" *W. C. Fields*  
"WHILE NEW YORK SLEEPS"

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## GABLES HOME AFTER ELOPEMENT



Carole Lombard and Clark Gable, filmdom's leading romantic couple, at Miss Lombard's home in Hollywood after their elopement to Kingman.

## M-G-M Lists 52 Movies

### One-a-Week for Coming Year Is 'Birthday Present'

Local representatives of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer today announced a "birthday present" of 52 pictures for Leopold's patrons in the coming 12 months, following the studio's 15th birthday anniversary sales convention in Chicago.

The one-a-week picture schedule is backed by an announced budget of \$1 million dollars.

A partial list of the releases includes such headliners as "Gone With the Wind" with Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh; "The Wizard of Oz," with an all-star cast and color photography, and a film version of Sinclair Lewis' "It Can't Happen Here."

**Tracy in New Film**  
"Northwest Passage" will be made with Spencer Tracy, Robert Taylor and Wallace Beery starred.

Norma Shearer will be seen in "The Women," and another in the "Thin Man" series is contemplated.

M-G-M is drawing further on the Broadway stage for the musical, "Babes in Arms" (Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland) and "On Borrowed Time" with Frank Morgan and Cedric Hardwicke.

**WILLIAM FARNUM IN PRIEST ROLE**  
The Alamo's current "Mexicali Rose," besides starring No. 1 cowboy Gene Autry, also has a prominent role for the veteran William Farnum.

Mr. Farnum, one of the wealthiest and most famous stars of the early silent days, plays the part of a Mexican priest in the Autry film.

Nelson Eddy is down for one appearance with Jeanette MacDonald and another with Ilona Massey. "The Life Story of Thomas Edison" will be made in two pictures, the first starring Mickey Rooney, the second, Spencer Tracy.

**HARPO ADOPTS BOY, 2**

HOLLYWOOD, March 31 (U. P.)—Harpo, the silent one of the Marx Brothers, was legally the father of a 2-year-old boy today. The movie madcap and his wife received from Juvenile Judge W. Turney Fox the final adoption papers for William Woolcott Marx.

**OPENS AT SPA TODAY**

**French Lick Springs**, March 31—Frank Gagen and his orchestra will open at the French Lick Springs Hotel today for the spring season. The orchestra comes from the Hotel Stalter in Detroit.

## WHAT, WHEN, WHERE

### APOLLO

"Three Smart Girls Grow Up" with Deanna Durbin's latest film, and Nan Grey, at 12:45, 3:54, 6:59 and 10:04.

"Beauty for the Asking" with Lucille Ball and Patric Knowles, at 11:41, 2:45, 5:51 and 8:56.

### CIRCLE

John Boles, Joe Ritter and orchestra, with Deanna Durbin and Marcelle Gilmore. **Engagement** through Saturday. **Curtain** at 8:30.

### INDIANA

"Midnight" with Claudette Colbert, Don Ameche, John Barrymore, Francis Lederer and Mary Astor. At 12:45, 3:55 and 6:55.

### LOEWS

"Fast and Loose" with Rosalind Russell, Robert Montgomery, Reginald Owen and Ralph Morgan. At 12:45.

### FOUR GIRLS IN WHITE

"Four Girls in White" with Florence Rice, Una Merkel, Ann Rutherford, Mary Howard, Alan Marshal and Buddy Ebsen. At 11:45, 2:50, 5:55 and 8:56.

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