

THEY'RE COZY FOR DESERT WEAR



J. Carroll Nash, left, and Ray Milland utilized the latest sand masks during the filming of "Beau Geste," now showing at the Circle. Either the bit players in the background don't rate masks or they don't have sinus trouble.

MOVIES

By HARRY MORRISON

Crosby, Cooper and Crawford  
Starred in Downtown Films.

**APOLLO**—"The Star Maker," with Bing Crosby, Louise Campbell, Ned Sparks, Linda Ware and Laura Hope Crews. Directed by Roy Del Ruth.

"This Man Is News," with Barry K. Barnes and Valerie Hobson.

**CIRCLE**—"Beau Geste," with Gary Cooper, Brian Donlevy, Robert Preston, Ray Milland, Susan Hayward and J. Carroll Nash. Directed by William A. Wellman.

"Death of a Champion," with Lynne Overman and Donald O'Connor. Directed by Robert Florey.

**LOEW'S**—"The Women," with Joan Crawford, Norma Shearer, Rosalind Russell, Paulette Goddard, Mary Boland and Joan Fontaine. Directed by George Cukor.

"6000 Enemies," with Walter Pidgeon, Rita Johnson, Paul Kelly and Nat Pendleton. Directed by George B. Seitz.

LOEW'S

It would be hard to suggest any good training ground but the best way to enjoy "The Women" is to train your ears for high frequency reception, the gags come that fast and furiously.

Those lucky ones who saw "Beau Geste" at English's will be delighted to know that the Hawks office politely turned its ear the other way when it censured this one.

The picture is a joy to behold. Bring out the clichés, gents. It's a feast for the eyes, a wow, an ear-tickling, side-splitting farce. It gets to the marrow of all your thoughts about women. It's swell.

Wouldn't Trust Methuselah

Mrs. Arbutnot, how do you hold a man? Why, get into his arms, of course, dearie.

And who, Mrs. Arbutnot, among men would you not even trust? Why, Methuselah, of course.

The picture is long, but not near enough. It runs about an hour and three-quarters. There's no dead timber and it comes to a satisfactory close. You should see it twice to get the full flavor of the Beech-Annita Loos rapid-fire gags.

The picture supposedly tells how women really act and think.

The heroine is poor little Norma Shearer. She lives in what the caustic Rosalind Russell calls a "fool's paradise." She loves her husband and her daughter and she trusts her spouse.

**Joan Gets Her Man**  
Said spouse gets himself involved with Joan Crawford, a perfume salesgirl. Joan gets her man, but Norma knows nothing about it—until she Russell hears of it from a manufacturer and loses no time in seeing that Norma is wised up.

Norma can't take it. She has it out with Joan, makes a scene, and then goes to Reno.

Norma's husband marries Joan. Meanwhile Norma has made some friends among the women she had never known about. She picks up a few pointers. When she hears through her daughter that papa isn't so happy with his perfumeist, she sets out to get him back.

The story is just a good scaffold, fitting to hang beautiful dialog on. It lets us look at Paulette Goddard as a good hearted showgirl with a ligne parfaite. And the Countess de Lave played in a fat, good-natured sort of way by Mary Boland.

**Joan's Acting Excellent**  
Miss Crawford does the best acting she has ever done. Miss Shearer was my only disappointment of the picture. She seemed to revert, for some reason, to the acting of silent days. But maybe

You probably won't even recognize J. Carroll Nash. At least I didn't.

The most difficult thing about this movie was keeping up its suspense and continuity and the director did a good job. Interesting side-light: There's practically no change from the other version, even to the dialog. That speaks well for the movies of 10 years ago. Or perhaps badly for the present-day style.

The other film is a starrer for Lynne Overman. It's called "Death of a Champion." It's about a dog show, but don't let that influence you to leave after "Beau Geste."

Mr. Overman is Oliver Quade, the walking encyclopedia who "knows all the answers." With the help of "Small Fry" Donald O'Connor he solves a couple of murders

that's the way mamma would have acted.

Two other thoughts: There aren't any men in the picture. There's a fashion show that you girls will go for. The models are pretty cute, too.

The picture is "6000 Enemies." It provides a first starring role for Walter Pidgeon. It's a B picture only because it's on the same bill with "The Women."

It's an easy matter for someone who has to be nasty to take the play away from a nice guy. That doesn't detract from Mr. Donlevy, who is the nastiest, Sergt. Markoff anyone ever had to look at.

The story starts with a relief expedition to beleaguered Ft. Zinderneuf. They find a fort with dead men at all the apertures and a very dead Sergt. Markoff rudely bayoneted.

Then Markoff disappears. The movie goes back to a childhood play scene in England 20 years before. The Gestes are growing up, three boys don't one of them in love with a little girl.

A jewel represents the family fortunes. They grow up. On the eve of the head of the family's return, the jewel disappears. So do the Gestes, each claiming he stole it. They join and meet in the Foreign Legion.

Their fort is attacked by the Arabs. Here's where Markoff has a chance to be brutal. He does it very nicely with desecrators kicked out to die without water in the desert and mutineers put down on a diet of bullets.

If you want to find out where Markoff disappeared to, if he were really dead and who stole the jewel, you'll have to see the movie. I'm not going to tell you.

The cast is excellent. Susan Hayward is the girl, though, and girls don't get to say much or do anything in the man's world of the Foreign Legion. She looks all right and one of the Gestes finally gets her.

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Two Movies  
Top Hit Roll

'Bachelor Mother,' 'Wizard Of Oz' Are Selected.

Two productions divided honors when Scripps-Howard reviewers selected the Picture Hit of the Month for August.

"Bachelor Mother," the scintillating R-K-O comedy, and the M-G-M production, "Wizard of Oz," with its beautiful coloring and rollicking musical score, received an equal amount of votes.

Ginger Rogers, Judy Garland and the cast surrounding them came in for high praise for near perfect performances.

**'Clicks at Right Moments'**  
Paul Hochuli, of the Houston Press, said:

"Despite it came in the same month with 'Oz,' 'Bachelor Mother' still gets my nod as the picture of the month. Comedy of this sort arrives but seldom, because it needs a click of cast, director and story at just the right moments."

Claude A. La Belle, the San Francisco News:

"I am one of those nuts that still reread occasionally 'Huck Finn,' 'Treasure Island,' 'Alice in Wonderland,' 'Wizard of Oz' and other children's stories—and still like 'em, and so I toss bouquets at M-G-M for the 'Wizard,' because it is the first one of these favorites that ever came to 100 per cent specification for me. Five gets you ten if it will run close to 'Snow White' in receipts."

**'Perfect Escape'**  
Ed Kingler, of the Evansville Press:

"'Bachelor Mother' is bright and gay, and a perfect escape from reality for dog day sufferers."

Jack Gordon, of the Fort Worth Press:

"Any fairy tale that can pull thousands from the war scareheads to pack theaters must have something. 'Wizard of Oz' has—fabulously beautiful coloring, Hollywood's best technical wizardry, a rollicking musical score and delightful performances by Bert Lahr, Ray Bolger, Judy Garland, Jack Haley and Frank Morgan."

Jack Warfel, of the Cleveland Press:

"Comedy at its scintillating best. Role is snug fit for Rogers. Adroit direction and novel theme."

**Riverside Open For Week-Ends**  
Riverside Park will remain open Saturday evenings and all day Sunday during the fall as weather permits.

There will be no change in free admissions, parking, checking and picnic facilities, officials said.

All the rides and concessions will be in operation during the week-ends, and the children's playground will be open each day at 10 a. m.

Meanwhile, the Crystal Dance Palace, 729 N. Illinois St., has been opened for the new season. Hal Bailey's orchestra plays nightly except Monday.

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IT'S NORMA! BING BEAMS



Who's the Upside Down Girl? It's Norma Shearer, now playing in "The Women."

DRAMA

By JAMES THRASHER

War May Keep British Actors Off English's Stage This Fall.

ANNOUNCEMENT of English's present and possible bookings for the coming season this year finds war's discordant note in this traditionally bright and welcome message.

One wonders how many British-born Broadway favorites will be called away and, specifically, how the conflict will affect the tours of Raymond Massey (Canadian) and Maurice Evans (Englishman) in "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" and "Hamlet."

Both plays are booked here, the former in mid-December, while the "Hamlet" has an indefinite arrangement pending Mr. Evans' further plans. Of course, we may be reasonably assured of seeing the Lincoln play, whether or not Mr. Massey is in the cast. For there is a capable substitute for the title part in Richard Gaines, and unless intentions have been altered, Mr. Gaines will take to the road with a second company.

Mr. Evans' departure from our shores would not be a loss, as he is thought to contemplate "Hamlet" of any description have been pretty scarce around here in the past decades. And, judging from reports, Mr. Evans' caliber of Danish melancholy is an event in any theatrical generation. Those who saw him last season in "King Richard II" will make an especially devout wish that such a gifted artist will be spared the ignominious and useless career of cannon fodder.

**ON** the brighter side we have, of course, the news that English's will open its season on Oct. 26 with a three-day engagement of the Rodgers and Hart musical, "I Married an Angel."

The troupe will recall is the musical fantasy in which Vera Zorina, late of the Ballet Russe, starred last year. Miss Zorina has been doing some movie making recently, and her place on tour will be taken by Karen van Ryn.

Miss van Ryn is no stranger to Indianapolis audiences, though her name may be unfamiliar. For she has been at English's the last two seasons with the Joos Ballet on the Martens Concerts series.

The other engagement already dated in that of Ethel Barrymore in a new play, called "The House of Three Echoes," on Nov. 2, 3 and 4. Miss Barrymore, who toured the straw hat and sea-fodder circuit this summer in "White Lies," will recall is the ancient in the new work—falling short of Gran Whitecoats' 101 summers by some years, however.

Then, shortly afterward, will come another musical, "Leave It to Me," which boasts Victor Moore, William Gaxton and a song called "My Heart Belongs to Daddy," among its attractions.

That exhausts the list of definite promises. But we stand a better than even chance of seeing Tallulah Bankhead in "The Little Foxes," Katharine Hepburn in "The Philadelphia Story" and Ethel Waters in "Mamba's Daughters." This trio of last season's hits (the first two are still running) won acclaim from the consensus of New York critics and any one of them apparently would be a distinguished contribution to the season, both from the writing and acting standpoints.

Naturally, this does not exhaust the possibilities. There is a good chance that Paul Vincent Carroll, "The White Steed," may be seen, and John Barrymore might even see his way clear to visit Indianapolis after the Chicago run of "My Dear Children" is finished. Don't bank too heavily on this last one, however.

Then, of course, there will be new plays in pre-New York showings; all this on the supposition that war comes no closer to this country with its general disrupting influence on theatrical personnel and thought.

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Meanwhile, Lincoln plays of one sort and another are flooding the New York market, as the Great Emancipator's theatrical reincarnation goes on apace.

Boyd A. Wise of Harrogate, Tenn., one of the 20 select authors in the Indiana contest, seems to be peddling his script independently. At least his name and that of his play, "Abe Lincoln—Hoosier," are included in a recent New York Times list of available products.

Brook Pemberton is considering seriously a play of Lincoln's last years and death, called "Mr. President," by Paul Horgan. To quote Mr. Pemberton:

"I have written it. It is the finest play about Lincoln he has ever read. He is considering playing it, but I haven't his word yet."

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'THE WOMEN' SING ON THE RENO TRAIL



"Home on the range, where the dears and the bank accounts roam." It's a duet by Paulette Goddard, left, and Mary Boland, who are Reno-bound from the New York reservation. The movie is "The Women" at Loew's.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Vaudeville Is Staging Come-Back!  
Strand Books Acts—Via Films

VAUDEVILLE is beginning to get in a few licks at the neighborhood theaters but not in the flesh.

It was Claude Allison at the Strand who got that idea of putting Bonnie Baker on the screen. Now he's announcing a complete program of filmed vaudeville acts and dance bands in addition to the regular double features.

He calls it "almost an hour of stars in person on the screen." The first program will start Thursday and run for four days.

Some of the bands include those of Russ Morgan, Hal Kemp, Hoagy Carmichael, Johnny Perkins and Clyde McCoy. They won't all be on the first program but other programs are in the making.

Each show will be made up like an old-time vaudeville show. Poodle dogs are being promised. So are seals and Red Kicketon.

**THE** contest to rename the Golden Theater has produced a definite favorite. It's the Sheridan. The names offered by the patrons range from the Popular to the Swank.

The voting deadline is Sept. 25. The new name will be announced Oct. 1.

**DONALD O'CONNOR** has the second lead in Lynne Overman's "Death of a Champion" at the Circle this week. You'll remember he got the name of "Small Fry" in a movie called "Sing, You Sinners" with Bing Crosby and Fred MacMurray.

You can see the trio again in a revival of "Sing, You Sinners" at the Rivoli's midnight show tonight.

**NOTES** with one eye open: Don't say a word but it looks like the World's Fair Talent Revue will be back with us in a couple of weeks. . . . The last critiques for "The Sun Never Sets" and "Captain Fury" are in the hands of the judges and a winner will be announced soon. . . . Jim Kennedy at the St. Clair has built a new lobby and front. He polished it off with that old standby—a popcorn stand. . . . Gray Kilbourne is starting some-

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