

MOVIES

'No Time for Comedy' Is Grand Fun;
'City for Conquest' Sentimental Film

CIRCLE—"No Time for Comedy," with James Stewart, Rosalind Russell, Genevieve Tobin. Also "Tom Brown's School Days," with Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Freddie Bartholomew.

INDIANA—"City for Conquest," with James Cagney, Ann Sheridan, Frank McHugh. Also "River's End," with Dennis Morgan, George Tobias.

LOEWS—"Strike Up the Band," with Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland, Paul Whiteman. Also "The Secret Seven," with Florence Rice, Bruce Bennett (second week).

LYRIC—Phil Spitalny and his All-Girl Orchestra, on stage. Also "Queen of the Yukon," with Charles Bickford, Irene Rich.

Circle

The first matter of business in this review might be to allay the fears of those who saw S. N. Behrman's comedy, cryptically titled "No Time for Comedy," in Indianapolis.

It had its first performance anywhere at English's in the spring of 1939. A lot of us saw and liked it. But when you see its film version on the Circle screen, you may think for a while that there was no time for Mr. Behrman.

Don't despair. The picture is more than half finished before the Behrman play commences, but the added prolog is grand fun.

It takes a brave soul to graft onto the polished comedies which Mr. Behrman writes. That's what has been done, however, by the script-writing Epsteins, Julius J. and Philip G.—successfully.

They have taken Mr. Behrman's young playwright, Gaylord Esterbrook, tailored him to fit James Stewart, and filled in some years before Mr. Behrman met him. Accordingly we see him coming into New York from a whistle stop called Redfield, Minn., looking rather uncomfortable in his store clothes. We follow him through the further discomfort of having his first play belittled by producer and director, dropped and eventually revived and financed by the lovely star whom he later marries.

The play is a hit. So are his next three. And this brings him up to where Mr. Behrman found him, a successful, dissatisfied playwright with an engaging manner and an inordinate capacity for liquor.

Then the original author takes over and "No Time for Comedy" proceeds as we first knew it. Gaylord sits in the clutches of Amanda Swift, who sees "latent possibilities" in him and persuades him to do a serious play. All this is simply Amanda's devious and devilish love-making, but Gay falls for it. He writes the play and it flops. And then there is Linda, waiting for her errant husband after Amanda walks out with the play's director, who also has "latent possibilities."

Mr. Behrman wrote his play in a semi-serious vein. He questioned whether such writers as himself should be content with pleasant comedy in a world filled with tragedy.

The picture doesn't bother much with this. The play's most important speech is the one in which Linda denounces Amanda's sneering, materialistic husband. The film slips over this hurriedly and misses Mr. Behrman's point.

But nobody should object. It's a gay little piece, filled with some brilliant wisecracks and handsomely acted. The Stewart fans should delight in their favorite again. And some of the patrons may agree with me that Rosalind Russell does a better job with Linda than Katherine Cornell did.

Thomas Hughes' old favorite, "Tom Brown's School Days," reaches the screen as the Circle's second feature this week. It's a story of bad boys, good boys, the old school spirit and all that with Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Freddie Bartholomew and Jimmy Lydon figuring prominently in the proceedings.—J. T.

Lyric

Phil Spitalny brings to the Lyric this week his all-girl "Hour of Charm" orchestra which you've heard via radio each Sunday night for some time now.

The 21 girls make a pretty picture on the stage. They are gowned in diaphanous white against a starry backdrop which catches the multi-colored lighting effects for which Mr. Spitalny is noted.

At their opening performance, the girls were called back for repeated bows, once when Maxine of the haunting voice, and the glee club sang "Ave Maria"; again when the Singing Strings gave a pulsating arrangement of "I'll Never Smile Again," finally when the "Girl of My Way" is the companion picture for the Uptown, both closing Wednesday night.

Hedy Lamarr ... as she looked arriving in Hollywood from Vienna.



The filming of two noted novels and Reuters' biography are nearing completion in Hollywood. Edward G. Robinson as Reuter in "A Dispatch From Reuters" here listens to a usually reliable source who undoubtedly has a scoop to offer.

In the picturization of Ethel Vance's novel of Nazi-dominated Germany, "Escape," Norma Shearer is the countess who, although unable to leave Germany herself, aids others to refuge across friendly borders. Her desire for their protection is greater than her love for the Nazi general (Felix Bressart). Mervyn LeRoy, who made "Anthony Adverse," is the director. Besides Miss Shearer and Mr. Bressart, others in the cast are Robert Taylor, Paul Lukas, and Bonita Granville. The film marks Nazimova's return to the screen.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Louis Markun Will Reopen Ritz Following Modernization Program

By DAVID MARSHALL

CLOSED FOR about two months, the Ritz, one of the North Side's

theatres, will be opened shortly by Louis Markun.

This marks Mr. Markun's return to theater business after a 12½-year absence. He formerly owned the Ritz, Rex, Tuxedo, Dream and Laurel Theaters.

Considerable modernization now is going on at the Ritz. New seats are being installed, the cooling and heating systems are getting the once over, plaster and paint soon will go onto the walls. The sound and projection systems also are to be overhauled.

Because of the refurbishing Mr. Markun has yet to fix a date for the re-opening.

Robert Hesseldorf, for nearly 10 years part owner and manager of the Uptown and one-time Ritz manager, will return to manage the Ritz.

DARRYL ZANUCK'S technicolor "The Return of Frank James" (sequel to "Jesse James") will have its first neighborhood runs tonight at the Fountain Square, Strand and St. Clair. Tomorrow it opens at the Uptown.

At the Fountain Square it will be doubled with "Dr. Christian Meets the Woman," to run through Tuesday. "The Girl From Avenue A" is the second feature with it at the Strand and St. Clair, staying through Wednesday. "If I Had My Way" is the companion picture for the Uptown, both closing Wednesday night.

Hedy Lamarr ... as she looked arriving in Hollywood from Vienna.

and Monday: "Maryland" and "Hi Yo Silver."

PARAMOUNT: Tonight: "Rango," War, and "Girl in the Moon." Tomorrow and Monday: "Tuxedo" and "Skylark."

RAZER: Tonight: "Andy Hardy Meets Debutante" and "I Was an Adventurer." Tomorrow and Monday: "The Story of a Girl" and "The Big Broadcast."

REX: Tonight: "Andy Hardy Meets Debutante" and shorts of the "Andy Hardy" series.

ROCKNE: Tonight: "The Girl From the Yukon," with Charles Bickford, Irene Rich.

SKY HARBOR: Tonight: "Anthony Adverse," with George Brent, and "The Big Broadcast."

STAGE: Tonight: "The Girl From the Yukon," with Charles Bickford, Irene Rich.

STATION: Tonight: "The Girl From the Yukon," with Charles Bickford, Irene Rich.

STRAFFORD: Tonight: "House Across the Bay" and "Covered Wagon." Tomorrow: "Anthony Adverse" and "Dr. Christian Meets Debutante" and "Girl in 313."

TACOMA: Tonight: "Andy Hardy Meets Debutante" and "I Was an Adventurer."

TALEN: Tonight: "The Second Fiddle" with Sonja Henie, Tyrone Power and Rudy Vallee.

TAVERN: Tonight: "The Second Fiddle" with Sonja Henie, Tyrone Power and Rudy Vallee.

THEATRE: Tonight: "The Second Fiddle" with Sonja Henie, Tyrone Power and Rudy Vallee.

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