

Civic to Be Host to 700

Community Center Patrons
To See Previews.

Nearly 700 patrons of Indianapolis community centers will be guests of the Civic Theater for preview performances of "Ladies in Retirement" tonight and tomorrow night.

Featuring Winifred Skyrne, Dorothy Robinson, Sara Lauter, Marie Jackson, Florence Hazen, Mary Elizabeth Jones and J. B. Cusick, the play will open Friday night at the playhouse and run through Jan. 14. It is the fourth production of the season.

For tonight's preview, Jack Duvall, supervisor of the City Recreation Department's adult drama clubs, has distributed tickets to the Northwestern, J. T. V. Hill and Ray St. centers. Tomorrow night the Civic cast will play before guests from the Northeast, Brookside, South Side, Keystone, Rhodius, Eagle and Municipal Gardens centers.

The play is a mystery melodrama by Edward Percy and Reginald Denham and was seen last season on Broadway with Flora Robson in the feature role. It recently was seen here as a movie, at Loew's, with Ida Lupino starred.

BING SETS NEW RECORD

Bing Crosby sings 12 times in Irving Berlin's "Holiday Inn," a new high mark for songs done by him in any film. Fred Astaire does eight dance routines for the picture, a new record for him in this respect. Irving Berlin wrote 13 new songs for the film, another new high mark.

HOTEL RILEY
Presents
For Your Entertainment
FRAN & BUDDIE
Instrumentalists & Vocalists
In the Popular
RENDEZVOUS ROOM
Famous for Mixed Drinks
16th St. at Capitol Ave.
FREE PARKING for Patrons



VOICE from the Balcony by FREMONT POWER

REVIEWERS MAY SPOUT AND RAVE and beat their typewriters hot. But the fact remains: Some of the most highly acclaimed movies receive only mediocre treatment at the box office.

Sometimes the films don't have the "big names" that pack the patrons in no matter what the story. No Gable, no Lana, no business. In other cases it may be that the picture just doesn't have that elusive something that attracts business.

It might be the title, the theater lobby signs or the way it's sold to the public. Somehow it just doesn't click and the prospective customers go elsewhere—and frequently pass up a first-rate picture.

"Long Voyage Home" was one that like that. For powerful story telling, attractiveness of plot and authenticity of the setting, here was a picture that still remains in the memory of those who saw it. For the most part, however, the film enjoyed only average success.

"The Little Foxes" is another example. Its drawing power at the Indiana was a keen disappointment to those who liked it so well.

Other examples are plentiful. "Ladies in Retirement" was a second feature at Loew's. "Citizen Kane" at the Indiana wasn't financially sensational by any means.

For those long in the show business, this remains one of the baffling problems that apparently defies solution. Universal introduced Abbott and Costello to the movie public in "Buck Privates" and the studio still hasn't recovered from the shock of public response. The box office was, as they say, terrific. It was one of the phenomenons of the 1940-41 season.

But Not Always
INFREQUENTLY, however, a superior picture comes along and without "names" or high-flown ballyhoo, scores a solid success. The example at hand is "How Green Was My Valley," which is showing now at the Circle.

Though the trade and the press were rabidly enthusiastic about the picture, Manager Art Baker of the Circle had few hopes of it being any more than an average box office item. As to the picture, "A Backward Look

PACKING A few belongings before leaving his Welsh home-land forever, Huw looks back upon his life and recounts the story of how his people were driven from their once-happy valley.

Walter Pidgeon as the preacher and Maureen O'Hara likewise have received the highest encomiums for their work. And Ann Lee, too, as Bronwen.

The picture was excellently cast throughout, and if it is to be Director Ford's valedictory to the movies, then it is a noble finale to a 25-year career that produced such milestones as "The Informer," "Stagecoach," "Grapes of Wrath," "Long Voyage Home" and others.

It is gratifying to those who try to evaluate between one picture and another to see the Circle's attraction getting the support it deserves.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

Composer on Way to City

Service Men Will Hear Symphony Free Sunday.

Roy Harris, eminent American composer, is scheduled to arrive here tomorrow morning to attend the performance of his revised composition, "Acceleration," by the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Friday afternoon and Saturday night at the Murat.

Traveling here from Ithaca, N. Y., where he heads the Cornell University music department, Mr. Harris also will attend a rehearsal of his piece tomorrow. He has expressed particular interest in the performance since "Acceleration" will be played for the first time in its present form.

Dalles Frantz, young American pianist who will be guest soloist with the orchestra next weekend, was to arrive tonight or tomorrow morning. He will be heard in the Grieg A minor concerto.

The program, which will mark the orchestra's fifth pair of subscription concerts, also will include Tchaikovsky's "Manfred" symphony and "Swan of Tuonela," by Sibelius.

Following the concerts, Fabien Sevitzky will rehearse the orchestra Sunday morning for its 10-day tour starting Monday. The management has announced that all service men and officers in uniform will be admitted to the rehearsal free of charge.

STUDIO COP QUILTS; NOW TO BE ACTOR

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7 (U. P.)—Capt. Edward J. Donnelly, 76, head of the studio police force at RKO for 23 years, retires this week, but at the same time achieves an ambition he has nursed almost from the first day he worked in Hollywood—he's going to be an actor.

Producer Harold Lloyd and Actor-Musician Kay Kyser, preparing a picture at RKO, wrote in a part for Capt. Donnelly. It will be a few weeks before the shooting schedule calls for Capt. Donnelly's appearance and in the mean time, if he wishes, he can wander about the set and pick up a few acting pointers.

He doesn't think he'll need them—he's cast as a waterfront policeman.

GHOSTS

The shades of George Washington, Andrew Jackson, Benjamin Franklin, Chief Justice Marshall, Thomas Jefferson, Jesse James and Private Henry Bartholomew Smith appeared in "The Remarkable Andrew."

WHEN DOES IT START?

"How Green Was My Valley," with Walter Pidgeon, Maureen O'Hara, Donald Crisp, Sam Alipio, Lee and Roddy McDowall, at 12:10, 3:20, 6:30 and 9:40.

"Merry Widows' Daughter," with Brenda Joyce, Bruce Edwards and George Barbier, at 11:10, 2:20, 5:30 and 8:40.

ENGLISH

"The English," last stage, with Eva Le Gallienne, Walter Hampden and Bobby Clark, at 2:30 and 8:30.

INDIANA

"They Died With Their Boots On," with Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland at 11:22, 2:34, 4:26, 6:38 and 9:50. A single feature.

LOWE'S

"Babes on Broadway," with Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland, at 12:10, 3:23, 6:30 and 9:40.

"Mr. and Mrs. North," with Gracie Allen, Robert Young and Tom Conway, at 11:30, 2:45, 5:30 and 8:30.

LYRIC

"Louisiana Purchase," (in technicolor) with Bob Hope, Victor Moore, Irene Bordoni, Raymond Walburn, at 1:15, 1:45, 2:30, 3:15, 3:30 and 10:20.

"Flying Cadets," with Edmund Lowe, Shirley Ross and Roy Harris, at 1:35, 6:30 and 9:20.

ENGLISH Last 2 Times

MATINEE 2:30 TONIGHT 8:30

EVA LE GALLIENNE
BOBBY CLARK
WALTER HAMPDEN

IN 1942'S FUNNIEST SHOW

"THE RIVALS"

A THEATER GUILD PRODUCTION

Eves.—1:15, 1:45, 2:30, 3:15, 3:30

Wed. Mat.—1:15, 1:45, 2:30, 3:15

ENGLISH Mon., Tues., Wed.,

11:15, 1:30, 1:45, 2:30, 3:15

MATINEE WEDNESDAY

CLAUDE ROSE FRANKIE

SEATS Prices: \$3.50, \$1.10, \$1.65.

Now \$2.20

IN THE POPULAR

Sapphire Room

Sparkling New Show *

The Best Yet!

BOBBY POPE

His Blues Trumpet and His Orchestra Featuring

DEACON WILLIAMS

Romantic Balladeer

and GLENN WEST

Outstanding Guitarist

ROBERT & SARITA

Dancers Divine

THE BEST

STEAK DINNER

IN TOWN

NITELY BROADCAST

WIBC AT 10:15 P. M.

Two Shows Nitely—8 and 12 P. M.

NEVER A COVER CHARGE

HOTEL WASHINGTON

Teaching 'Manly Art' in Circle Film



Billy Dodges Sneeze Role

Gilbert Wins Argument His Nose Is Overworked.

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7 (U. P.)—Ponderous Billy Gilbert, who has sneezed for the movies in a dozen languages, finally has won out in his contention that his nose is being overworked. He has a role with not a single sneeze in the script.

His screen foolishness, Mr. Gilbert said, sometimes has been carried to extremes and he believes the public likes him better in more natural characterizations.

Mr. Gilbert's latest assignment is with Judy Canova in Republic's "Sleepytime Girl." He is Popadopolis, a chef, with Judy as his baking assistant.

Although most often cast as a foreigner, Mr. Gilbert is strictly American. He was born in Louisville, Ky. His father sang in the Metropolitan Opera Company, New York, and his mother was in the chorus.

Mr. Gilbert grew up to be a producer of plays and revues in New York before he went into vaudeville and finally into the movies.

He started as a villan, then gradually worked into comedy. His first big chance came in the role of a comic chef in "On the Avenue" in 1935, with Madeleine Carroll and Dick Powell.

To the people on the set Mr. Gilbert is "Uncle Billy." To most movie fans he probably is "that funny man again." "Again" is right. He has been averaging 14 pictures a year for the past five years.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7, 1942

Ambassador 20¢ to 6 P.M. Tax 111 N. Illinois St. • Open 10 A. M. • 8 P.M.

W. C. Fields-Gloria Jean 'Never Give a Sucker an Even Break' Joan Blondell-'Girls About Town' "Don Winslow of the Navy"—Shorts

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