



Rise Stevens Big Carmen Hit

By Henry Butler

LAFAYETTE, May 22—The Metropolitan Opera's new "Carmen," which occupied the Purdue Hall of Music last night, is dominated by one personality.

That is Rise Stevens.

For better or worse, Miss Stevens departs from tradition. She does Carmen with something of the spirit of the "Carmen Jones" adaptation of Bizet's opera.

She takes romance and rose-in-teeth cuteness out of the lamentable heroine's performance and makes her all too evidently a delinquent girl.

After two acts of her stomping about the stage and literally screaming when the score permits, you begin to wonder what besides Miss Stevens' evident physical endowments, Carmen has that induces Done Jose to wreck his life for her.

Hard-Boiled

As a high-tempered, shrewish Carmen, Miss Stevens has the advantage of a formidable mezzo voice not over-burdened with subtlety. . . her "Habenera" and "Seguidilla," possibly with some influence from Conductor Fritz Reiner, who keeps tempo fairly lively, are hard-boiled rather than romantic.

The familiar proceedings of the opera take place in settings somewhat shifted around from traditional arrangement. Costumes, also by Rolf Gerard, are somber, using probably historically accurate colors instead of the usual parade of many-colored operatic Spanish outfits.

In Bad Voice

As of that time, the second act had been a much greater artistic. Owing to present temporary difficulties of transmission, we were obliged to leave at the end of Act II in order to get this report on its way.

success than the first, though also hampered by the unfortunate shallowness of the Purdue stage. Ramon Vinay, the evening's Done Jose, was in unfortunately bad voice, with fatigue and flitting sometimes painful to hear. That was regrettable, since he made an excellent appearance in the role.

Frank Guarrera, as Escamillo, did excellent singing and acting in the Act II Toreador song. Mr. Guarrera Tuesday night had done big work in "Tosca Fan Tutte" down in Bloomington.

Sings Micaela Nicely

Nadine Conner sang Micaela very nicely. Others needing mention are Oslo Hawkins, as Zuniga; Clifford Harvot, as Morales; Lucine Amara, as Frasquita; Herta Glaz, as Mercedes; George Cehanovsky, as Dancaire, and Allox Alessio De Paolis, as Romeno.

It was a real experience to hear the Met's superb orchestra ripping off that introduction and later doing the wind-up of the gypsy dance at terrific speed. The ballet were somewhat handicapped by ever-present danger of falling into the orchestra pit.

Speaking of the Gypsy dance, Miss Stevens' sinuous performing during it was something to see. There's a gal who never need worry about losing her voice.

Watch for Spud Culls

DENVER, Colo., May 22 (UP)—Vigilante groups of organized potato growers set up road blocks in the San Luis Valley today to keep cull potatoes from reaching the retail market.

'Police State' Law Wiped Out

'Won't Replace It,'
City Officials Say

Indianapolis today wiped off its law book an ordinance branded a "police state measure" and city officials said there would be no effort to replace it.

Judge Lloyd D. Claycomb yesterday ruled invalid the ordinance which required citizens to "give an account" of themselves to police officers.

The Marion Circuit Court judge upheld the motion of attorney Thurl Rhodes that the ordinance which grew out of the 1951 codification of city laws was "unconstitutional."

City Corporation Counsel Palmer K. Ward today said there is no plan to write a new law to replace this ordinance. He said he believed adequate laws on which to base arrests of suspicious persons already are on the books.

The ruling unlocked the door of Indiana Women's Prison today for 19-year-old Marelyn Hopper, whose conviction on that charge was used to "test" the ordinance.

The teen-ager was arrested in her hotel room on that charge after a wife named her as the "other woman" in a domestic triangle.

After her conviction on the charge, a group of citizens interested in testing the validity of what they called a "police state measure" retained Attorney Thurl Rhodes to make a test case of that conviction.

An order for her release was signed by Judge Claycomb after he gave his decision that the city ordinance violated provisions of the Indiana and U. S. Constitutions.

Charges Dismissed
The ruling figuratively unlocked jail doors for five other persons, all currently under arrest and awaiting hearing on the same charge.

Judge Phillip Bayt of Municipal Court 3 today said he would have officers inform these five people, all free on bond or on their own recognizance, that charges against them have been dismissed.

'Prompt Account'
"I didn't think much of the law anyway," said Judge Bayt.

The ordinance required any person stopped by a police officer to give a "prompt, straightforward and accurate account of their whereabouts. If in the officer's judgment such account was not truthful, it empowered police to search the individual, inquire of a criminal record and required the citizen to submit to search and to answer such questions.

In opposing the law, Mr. Rhodes successfully contended its provisions abridged rights of persons against search without a search warrant and the rights of individuals not to testify against themselves.

Henry Butler in Indiana, Erskine Johnson in Hollywood and Ward Morehouse on Broadway keep you posted on the show world in your Sunday Times.



READY FOR ACTION — Four principals in Shakespeare's comedy, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," rehearse their lines in very realistic fashion. They are (left to right) Charlotte Green, 1042 W. 35th St.; Charles Marlowe, 3868 Ruckle St.; John Mills, 1125 Laurel St.; and Patty Payne, Ft. Wayne. The play will be presented by the Butler University Student Players Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p. m. in Butler's Holcomb Gardens.

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