

Peter P. Jacobi

Betty Grable Continues 'Hello, Dolly!' Tradition

DAVID MERRICK, THAT CARNEGIE of the theater, now has given Chicago three Dollys and he has had three strikes. In the case of "Hello, Dolly!" this has meant not a baseball out but a triple gold strike.

It looks now as if he'll be minting money around here for quite a while.

First he brought us the gal for whom the musical obviously was written, Carol Channing. And she was good enough to live up to her notices; she was an outrageous clown.

Then Miss Channing left because of a film commitment, and we were introduced to a completely new Dolly, Eve Arden. Miss Arden, the master of sarcastic comedy, gave us a surprisingly soft and warm interpretation of the role. During her stay viewers really learned to look at the rest of the production and to know that all of "Hello, Dolly!" is a triumph of careful direction.

Then Mr. Merrick decided to move the Chicago company to Houston and last week we got a company that had been playing since last winter at the Riviera in Las Vegas, headed by a famous film name, Betty Grable.

Miss Grable always sounded like a far-out and perhaps dubious replacement, but then most people were unaware that this film lovely of the 1940s had broken into show business not in the movies but via the musical stage.

WELL, MR. MERRICK AND THOSE who advise him obviously were right all the time. Not because she's a great singer. She isn't. Not because she's a great comedienne. She isn't. Not because she's a great actress. She isn't. She's not a Channing or an Arden.

She is Betty Grable, and right there is reason enough—it turns out—for her to be Dolly. She's still lovely. She has that slightly fetching but little bitty voice—husky yet so tiny that it very much needs the microphone hidden somewhere in the décolletage.

Miss Grable is Dolly because Dolly is a flexible role and because Miss Grable is a well-remembered American tradition. She is the blonde who nine years running topped the box office popularity poll. She is the curvaceous lady who was pinned in photographic form over the bunks of countless GIs during World War II.

And it was these former soldiers and sailors and airmen who applauded time and again throughout the evening, cheering Miss Grable on and finally standing to honor her. To them she was memory returned very much to life. And there was a warmth to seeing such response.

THE REST OF THE CAST IS AS GOOD as the previous one. Max Showalter now is the Yonkers half-a-millionaire for whom Dolly sets her sights. And though you might not recognize his name, you'll recognize him and respond to his appropriate performance. Peter Walker and Danny Lockin now are the young clerks out for a spree in New York. June Helmers is the lovely widow Irene Molloy.

Every action and dance movement seems the same, with the strong imprint of director-choreographer Gower Champion. In many ways it really is a show held together by the Champion talent, because when all is said and done "Hello, Dolly!" will go down in theater history as a huge success—despite flabby music and lyrics and book—because of just-right casting and direction. These the musical continues to have.

Hello, Betty!

Band Will Begin Season

The Northshore Concert Band of Wilmette will begin its 1966-67 season Sunday under the baton of a new director.

Glenn Cliffe Bainum, director emeritus of Northwestern University bands, will direct the group this year. Mr. Bainum, 945 Chicago Av., Evanston, served with Northwestern for 27 years.



Mr. Bainum

He is secretary-treasurer of the American Bandmasters Association, a post he has held since 1933, and currently is arranging and transcribing band compositions.

Sunday's concert will be held at 3:30 p.m. in Wilmette Junior High School-Locust, 620 Locust Rd. The program will include the overture from Camille Saint-Saens' "La

Princesse Jaune," Percy Fletcher's "Bal Masque" from Parisian Sketches No. 1 and "The Bean Feast," and Zoltan Kodaly's "The Battle and Defeat of Napoleon" from "Hary Janos."

Local band members include:

From Wilmette; James Huff, 231 Seventeenth St.; Margaret (Mrs. Francis C.) Neuhaus, 1617 Central Av.; James Pomroy, 1358 Ashland Av.; and Judith (Mrs. Harry) Siegel, 541 Skokie Blvd.

From Glenview: Miss Bonnie Blazyk, 136 Lincoln St.; John Horency, 3310 Linneman St.; Michael Salzman, 1232 Waukegan Rd.; Janet (Mrs. Joseph J. Jr.) Schroeder, 2120 Fir St.; and Richard N. Strang, 1340 E. Lake Av.

Openings still are available in the band, which is sponsored by the Wilmette Recreation Department.

Tickets for Sunday's concert may be purchased at the door or from band members.

Two Residents To Participate In Workshops

Two Wilmette men will participate in Northwestern University School of Music's choral-vocal workshop Saturday.

Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana high school voice students and music teachers will attend the free workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Lutkin Hall, 700 University Pl., Evanston.

The local men will be among faculty members who will conduct small classes for the high school students. They are Hermanus Baer, 4043 Fairway Dr., chairman and professor of the voice department; and Norman Gulbrandsen, 1100 Thirteenth St., teaching associate in voice.

The workshop also will feature a two-hour rehearsal of choral techniques, solo recitals by Northwestern voice majors, and musical theater production techniques. The high school teachers have been invited to observe Northwestern's voice-teaching methods.

The School of Music also will conduct free workshops for high school students and teachers of piano, organ, and stringed instruments Oct. 29, and for high school students and teachers of wind and percussion instruments Feb. 18. Further information may be obtained from School of Music Prof. Jack M. Pernecky, workshop director.

Art Show to Open At Amber Light

The Amber Light Gallery will show oil paintings and water colors by Frances Milam (Mrs. Clarence) Jensen beginning Monday at the new Plaza del Lago center, 932 Spanish Court, Wilmette.

The Georgia-born artist studied at the University of Chattanooga, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Summer School of Painting at Saugatuck, Mich. She and her husband live in the Indiana dunes near Chesterton and she has become well known for her paintings of the sand dunes.

Mrs. Jensen also has painted in the Smoky Mountains, Nova Scotia, and the North Woods. She has won prizes in exhibitions in Chicago, and Hammond, Chesterton, and Lowell, Ind.

The show, which is Mrs. Jensen's second at the Amber Light, will be on display for one month.



Mr. Jacobi

Winnetka Lyric Chapter Plans Second Program on 'Libretto'

The second program of the "Listening with Libretto" series sponsored by the Winnetka Chapter, Lyric Opera Guild, will be presented at 1:15 p.m. next Thursday in the home of Mrs. Peter G. Mero, 830 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Winnetka. The meeting was originally scheduled to be held in the Charles H. Percy home in Kenilworth.

Mrs. A. Dryden Eberhart, 1001 Greenleaf Av., Wilmette, will speak on George Bizet's "The Pearl Fishers." Kay (Mrs. Malcolm) Carpenter of Chicago, a lyric soprano, will provide musical illustrations. Both women have sung in concerts and operatic productions in the Chicago area.

Mrs. Eberhart is a past president of the North Shore Musicians Club, a member of the Evanston and Winnetka music clubs, and program chairman of the Wilmette Chapter, Lyric Opera Guild.

Membership in the Winnetka

group is open to all North Shore residents. Prospective members can contact Mrs. William O. Butz, 922 Cherry St., Winnetka.

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