

George Sidney, Stars in Comedy at Wood's

"Kibitzer," the comedy with George Sidney starring in the title role, apparently has settled down for a season's run at the Woods theatre, Chicago, and bids fair to exceed the record made by Mr. Sidney in his "Welcome, Stranger," five years ago. The new comedy, by Jo Swerling and Edw. G. Robinson, enters its third week on Sunday, September 8, crowded houses and enthusiastic audiences having greeted every performance. So hearty has been the welcome accorded the star, who returns to the stage after four years in pictures, that he has been obliged to make a second act curtain speech at each performance.

Undoubtedly in "Kibitzer" Mr. Sidney has found his best role in his long and varied stage career. It was because the role impressed him so strongly that he agreed to leave the screen for the stage, his only stipulation to Patterson McNutt, the producer, being that the play should be presented first in Chicago, where he met with such great success in "Welcome, Stranger." And the splendid reception accorded "Kibitzer" has justified the stipulation.

The Chicago newspaper critics were unanimous in their praise of Mr. Sidney and his play. In his first review Ashton Stevens, of the Herald and Examiner, said: "Kibitzer" swins with laughter. George Sidney scores twelve bells in an instant hit.

He was ten times and ten years better an actor than when he acted in "Welcome, Stranger." A week later, after seeing the comedy a second, and even a third time, he wrote—"Every theatrical season should be opened with a play like 'Kibitzer'. If, as the wags tell us, laughter is good for bone, blood and tissue, 'Kibitzer' is no friend of the medicine man and the mortician. And George Sidney's acting of the fretty old butt-in and pulillanamous piker is the finest work of its genre since Barney Bernard. There, ladies and gentleman, is an actor."

"Riotously funny, as antic as something with the Marx Brothers and as comical; acted with immense and likeable effectiveness by Mr. Sidney," wrote Frederick Donaghey in the Tribune. "Rich humor, clever philosophy, good entertainment—these, and more, are to be found in 'Kibitzer,'" said Margaret Mann Crollius in the Daily News. Fritz Blocki said in the American: "Waves of laughter. Audience shrieks with joy. Sidney gives superb impersonation," while C. J. Bulliet, of the Post, said: "Kibitzer: starts the season off in great good humor."

According to the newspapers in several cities, the men are putting on their pajamas and parading the streets in the business section. Well this isn't so bad as it might be. Suppose the old fashioned night shirt were still the mode.

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