

HERE AND THERE ON STAGE AND SCREEN

Reviews of the Week

By *Thespian*

AMATEUR

"THE ENCHANTED COTTAGE"
Written by Sir Arthur Pinero and presented in north shore towns during the week of November 5, by the North Shore Theatre Guild. Reviewed at Skokie school, Winnetka. Presented by the following cast:

Mrs. MinnetMargaret Fabian
Laura PendletonEleanor Eckhart
Major Hillgrove ..J. Williams Macy
Oliver Bashforth Stuart Bailey
The Rev. Mr. Corsellis ..Thomas Rollo
Mrs. Corsellis
.....Mrs. Alexander O. Mason
Mrs. Smallwood ..Mrs. E. V. L. Brown
Mr. SmallwoodPercy Eckhart
RiggsKenneth Maltby

There are some who may not be satisfied with the "Enchanted Cottage" as a play. A few will call attention to the fact that it lacks thrills and that there is little action. Others who happened to see it as a motion picture will note the difficulty of bringing out on the stage many of the things which they saw on the screen. They will also point to the fact that on the screen the two leading characters actually showed, in a physical manner, the change which they believed came over them, whereas on the stage these physical defects still remained.

The story concerns a war crippled young man and a homely girl. They marry and through the eyes of love see each other in a new light. He is to her, a strong healthy and handsome man while she is to him the most beautiful of women. This feeling is strongly entrenched, so strongly in fact, that they literally believe a transformation has taken place. But there is a rude awakening when those about them fail to see any physical change in their make-up.

The play, beautifully written, included a dream, staged and executed in a manner seldom seen on the amateur stage. In fact, the staging of the entire production should be commended and the cast certainly had excellent direction.

The outstanding performance of the evening was the interpretation of the war cripple by Mr. Guy Stuart Bailey who gave as finished a portrayal as I have been privileged to see in connection with the Theatre Guild. It stamped him as a finished actor in every sense of the word. Miss Eleanor Eckhart, with a marvelous make-up, was the homely young girl who later becomes his wife. Her pathetic moments were especially interesting. Mr. J. Williams Macy, who was the blind major, did an excellent piece of work despite the fact that some of his lines failed to carry to all parts of the auditorium. There were others in the cast who should not be overlooked including Mr. Percy Eckhart and Mrs. Brown, who, as Mr. and Mrs. Smallwood, furnished a number of good comedy moments.

Regardless of your particular ideas regarding "The Enchanted Cottage," as a play, there is no disputing that the Theatre Guild is to be congratulated upon starting its new season in a most satisfactory manner as far as direction, stage management and pleasing interpretation of lines is concerned.

SCREEN

"FORBIDDEN PARADISE"
McVickers Theatre

A Paramount picture with a spicy name taken from the stage play "The Czarina," by Biro. It stars Pola Negri and is directed by Ernst Lubitsch who handled the same star in "Passion." It is all about the woman ruler of a small kingdom who seems to have been a woman of many love affairs and has a particular hankering for each new and handsome man who crosses her path. Most of the story concerns her affair with Alexei, played by Rod LaRocque. He is a young officer in the guard and in love with a lady-in-waiting. But that matters not to the queen who uses all her wiles to win him for herself. A revolution intervenes, Alexei learns a few things about the queen, joins the revolutionists, is condemned to death but saved by his ruler because as she says, he is not worth all the trouble of killing. Then she starts an affair with a visiting ambassador and leaves Alexei for his original and only love.

The picture is a clever one and combines good acting with fine direction. At the same time it is not a masterpiece in the commonly accepted meaning of that term. You enjoy watching the manouvers of the queen and the tempting of the young soldier. And you will revel in the wonderful work done by Adolphe Menjou as the chancellor of the kingdom. It is the finest thing I have seen him do. Miss Pola Negri is far from being over-taxed in the things she is called upon to do. But she does them with much skill.

Even though it is said that the picture has been tempered in its screen adaption it is still a somewhat sophisticated endeavor and some may find a little that may cause a momentary shock. But it differs from many others you have seen containing

similar situations in that it is not dripping with sentimentalism and preaches no sermon. It is just a



Pola Negri
in the Ernst Lubitsch Production
"Forbidden Paradise"
A Paramount Picture

straightforward story about a queen who would a-wooing go.

"HER NIGHT OF ROMANCE"
Chicago Theatre

Stripped of all its embellishments this story is about the daughter of a very rich man, who thinks all men are fortune seekers, and a titled young man who would marry her. But they have surrounded the simple story with so many different bits that it carries a considerable interest to the very end. In the first place it employs the services of Constance Talmadge as the young woman and Ronald Colman as the young man. Both are refreshing. Then it adds various complications which must be over-come before the wedding can be arranged. The girl pretends to be homely because she hates all men until she falls in love with Colman when she goes to the other extreme. The young man through peculiar circumstances is taken for a physician which only helps him to see more of the fair lady. Even her father, a butler and a chauffeur figure in the mixups with which the picture is filled and a broker who would arrange the match nearly succeeds in breaking it up.

It is just a mad love race with cupid winning as per usual. The story was written by Hans Kraly and direction is by Sidney Franklin. First National put it out.

Neighboring Theaters

HOWARD

Agnes Ayres and Antonio Moreno are featured in "The Story Without a Name," which will be the attraction at the Howard theater Sunday, November 16. The picture was directed by Irvin Willat from Arthur Stringer's Photoplay Magazine radio tale.

The old days so famous for adventure and down in history as the days of the birth of the American nation, have been turned back and are shown in "The Covered Wagon," which comes to the Howard theater for four days commencing Monday, November 17. The great stretch of the western plains forms a most significant background and five hundred or more covered wagons or "prairie schooners," add greatness to this picture. There is a love tale of the desert wastes, long and enduring with its thrilling climax, leading to the reunion of the young couple, played by J. Warren Kerrigan and Lois

Wilson, in a frontier homestead in Oregon.

Irene Rich, Louise Fazenda and Ricardo Cortez head the cast in "This Woman," which will have a two days' run at the Howard beginning Friday, November 21. The story tells of a beautiful and talented girl alone in New York, friendless and broke. The depths of despair and then a sudden meteoric rise to luxury and fame.

Carol Drayton, the student of music, is saved from suicide by a girl of the streets and later finds a patron.

ADELPHI

The radio plays a big role in "The Story Without a Name," which is booked for the Adelphi theater for Sunday, November 16. The two lovers, Agnes Ayres and Antonio Moreno are able to communicate by use of the radio which is on the boat and on the island. Also by broadcasting a call for help when most of the stations are closed to allow the president to deliver an address, saves the couple from the villainous men.

"The City That Never Sleeps" will be the feature film Monday and Tuesday, November 17 and 18. Ricardo Cortez, who has become one of the most sought after screen stars, is starred in this film.

Wednesday and Thursday, November 19 and 20, Milton Sills and Alla Nazimova will be seen in "Madonna of the Streets," which marks the return of Nazimova to the silver-sheet after an absence of several years. Nazimova performs in this picture with her usual emotional and clever acting.

"Merton of the Movies," adapted for the screen from the stage play of the same name, shows the difference between what some ambitious thespians think they want to produce and what they actually portray. Merton (Glenn Hunter) wants to act in the serious and highbrow films but when he sees his finished product he sees himself as a comedian.

NEW EVANSTON

Two classes of religious devotees who have come to be known by the terms "modernists" and "fundamentalists," because of their belief or lack of belief, in the existence of Hell as a place of eternal punishment for earthly sins, are found to be equally interested in "Dante's Inferno," which will be seen at the New Evanston theater for a limited engagement starting Monday, November 17.

Incidentally, no one will deny that Dante, in writing his great classic "The Divine Comedy," including as it does three allegories describing the hereafter, proved himself a consistent fundamentalist. It is said that his conception of

future life and all the various circles and gradations of Hell and Purgatory, are largely in accordance with the Catholic version of the time.

Whether his conception as pictured in the film meets with the beliefs of present day "fundamentalists" has caused much controversy since this picture has been released. Those who believe in a hereafter of celestial bliss or of eternal fire and brimstone are pointing to the picture as a true and faithful representation of what sinners and saints have in store for the future. The "modernists" have expressed an opposite opinion.

Back to civilization!

That was the cry of the Irwin Willat company which left Houston, Texas,

last week en route to Hollywood after two months on a strenuous location.

The company, headed by producer Irwin Willat, Jack Holt, Ernest Torrence, Lois Wilson and Noah Beery were in the southwestern part of Texas filming the drive of four thousand cattle for Emerson Hough's "North of 36." Upon the arrival the company resumed its work to complete the interior scenes.

"Contraband," Alan Crosland's new production for Paramount, has been begun at the West Coast studio. The screen play was prepared by Jack Cunningham from the novel of the same name by Clarence Budington Kelland.

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Agnes Ayres
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"The Story Without a Name"

COMEDY NEWS

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Agnes Ayres and Antonio Moreno

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J. W. Kerrigan

"Covered Wagon"

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Irene Rich and Ricardo Cortez

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Sunday, November 16

Agnes Ayres and Antonio Moreno

"Story Without a Name"

Mon. and Tues., Nov. 17-18

Ricardo Cortez

"City That Never Sleeps"

Wed. and Thurs., Nov. 19-20

Milton Sills and Nazimova

"Madonna of the Streets"

Fri. and Sat., Nov. 21-22

Glenn Hunter and Viola Dana

"Merton of the Movies"

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