

The Minturn Players

"The First Year"

"The best comedy of our generation," said Heywood Brown, the noted dramatic critic of the New York Tribune, in tribute to Frank Craven's play, "The First Year." "One of the best comedies, if not the very best ever written by an American," said Alexander Woolcott, eminent critic of the New York Times. Every critic, not only in New York, but in every large city of the United States, has, without exception, echoed these words.

During the two-year New York run of "The First Year"—second only to that of "Lightnin'"—likewise produced and staged respectively by John Golden and Winchell Smith—the New York public made this appraisal unanimous.

Why? Because "The First Year" is life. The characters are people you know—living next door—in your own family—perhaps, being even you, yourself. The things they do are the things you do.

The story of "The First Year" is the story of the first year of married life, with its comic tragedies, its laughter and sorrow, its sunshine and shadow, as folks have lived it and are living it now in every American home.

To miss "The First Year" is to miss the greatest play ever written and produced by Americans, ever written about Americans, and ever joyously acclaimed by Americans in every section of the country as the finest theatrical entertainment that the Twentieth Century has seen. It is only once in a lifetime that such a play as "The First Year" comes along, there never was one like it before, and there never will be one like it again. That is the reason why the box office of the New Evanston Theatre reports the heaviest sale of tickets since the Minturn Players started their season here.

VILLAGE THEATRE

"The Winning of Barbara Worth," Samuel Goldwyn's presentation of the Henry King production of Harold Bell Wright's best selling novel, with Ronald Colman and Vilma Banky, come to the Village Theatre as the feature for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

The dramatic romance which features Ronald Colman and the lovely Vilma Banky, is a glowing tale of those pioneers who battled with the menace of water, first in its total absence and then in its overflowing presence. It is at once the story of vast lands reclaimed and the reclamation of a man's soul.

"The Winning of Barbara Worth" presents the most unique eternal triangle of any of the more important films, with Willard Holmes, eastern engineer, coming to love Barbara just as Abe Lee, desert-bred westerner, does; and poor Barbara does not know her own mind, loving both. Gary Cooper, one of the year's "finds," plays Abe Lee to Ronald Colman's Holmes. And Miss Banky is Barbara Worth, daughter of the Jefferson Worth who knew the West should be reclaimed.

Conflict between the old and the new is the basic theme of "Sensation Seekers," starring Billie Dove with Huntley Gordon, which will be shown on Thursday only.

In this motion picture drama of personal life in fashionable society is presented the spectacle of the hidebound puritanism of yesterday trying to defeat the liberty of today, reducing every person to the rigorous discipline of dogma.

Youth break the traces and becomes lawless beyond reason but at last the fiery temper, which will not yield to force, is seen to yield to love.

Minturn's "The Patsy" A Play to Write Home About

By HUB

Well, I went down to the New Evanston Monday to see Harry Minturn's newest and latest, "The Patsy." Now I don't know a thing about New York crowds or New York tastes when it comes to the stage but I do know that if they are anything like mine, the theatre editors in the big village weren't suffering from anything when they said it was a "wow." In my opinion, "The Patsy" is by far the biggest of the season's presentations and the smoothest of the Minturn productions. It's the kind of a play you write home about.

To start with Barry Connors wrote a good play. It moves fast; it is versatile in characterization; it is superb in humor. It is a comedy but there are subtle touches of dramatic pathos interwoven in such a manner that they could not offend the most sensitive nature or the most critical ear. The plot is simple but is complete and well rounded. Upon the other hand, it is the type of play that without careful casting would fall flat in its presentation.

Ordinarily in the staging of a play the entire production is pointed to the acting of one person and the rest of the actors are so mediocre in contrast that they become mere stage accessories from the audience viewpoint. Without hesitation I may say that the one outstanding point in connection with the Minturn players is that they are all good actors. Each fills his part in such a manner that it seems to be spontaneous and prompted by the situation.

Of course there were outstanding players in "The Patsy," the construction of the play takes care of that. Margery Williams took the lead and did it exceptionally well. In all places Willis Hall played into the character of the father with touches that were simply superb. In voice and manner he was as natural as real life and in moments of sympathy for Pat he arose

far above the average. I didn't like Mr. Minturn as Tony nearly so well as in the part of Muggs in "Turn to the Right." His characterization was not quite so smooth. Henrietta Tedro as Pat's mother and June Kerwin as her sister, Grace, were excellent. In every way, to my mind, the Minturns have every reason to feel proud of "The Patsy."

THE NORSHORE

Cosmopolitan's newest production, "The Understanding Heart," coming Sunday to the Norshore theatre, is said to be a romantic drama of intense realism and power. It is a stirring picture of the popular Peter B. Kyne novel, directed for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer by Jack Conway, with Joan Crawford, Rockliffe Fellowes, Carmel Myers and Francis X. Bushman, Jr.

It is a tale of the great outdoors, having for a background the immense timber lands of the Northwest on the United States Government preserves.

Joan Crawford, for whom big things are prophesied, does a profoundly moving bit of acting in this big picture.

PICTURE PLAYER MAGICIAN

During the hot summer nights in the Nevada desert where "The Winning of Barbara Worth," current picture at the Village Theatre, was made, Sam Blum, the comedian who is "Blanton" in the film, exercised his hobby, magic. He instructed Ronald Colman and Vilma Banky how to break a pencil with a \$5 bill. He showed the cowboys how to deal four royal flushes in poker at the same time. He showed Clyde Cook, another player in "The Winning of Barbara Worth," how to make two jack rabbits grow where none grew before. And when Blum told Cook that his ambition was to be a billiard player, the Ziegfeld Revue comedian replied: "Then all you have to do is lie down and roll."

Village Theatre

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"The Winning of Barbara Worth"

with
Ronald Colman, Vilma Banky

Also
"A Perfect Day"—Edu. Comedy
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ONE DAY ONLY

Billie Dove, Huntley Gordon
in

"SENSATION SEEKERS"

Also
"Ko Ko Packup"—Inkwell
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