

# THE PLAY



Blanche Bates and Bruce McRae, in the comedy "Nobody's Widow" at the Hellig.



Harry Hilliard, leading man, Baker Stock Co. in "Brewster's Millions."



Walter Law & Co. at the Empress.

ined Willard during his engagement at the Empress to learn how he can stretch his body.

Monday afternoon there will come a new show to the Empress, a programme that is replete with good things and offering a wide collection of acts, both American and European. For the headline act Sullivan & Considine are sending Walter Law and a carefully selected company in the playlet, "At the Threshold." There are few better acts in vaudeville than this and it tells a story in an intense manner. The interest is kept ever point until the drop of the curtain. Rare acting skill is required for a proper presentation of "At the Threshold" and this is assured by the presence of such players as Mr. Law and his associates.

With an aggregation of horses, dogs and monkeys, Mons. Del Franco presents a miniature circus. This act was the animal hit of the London Hippodrome, which should be a sufficient guarantee of the drawing powers of the specialty. There is something absolutely new in this act and among the many feats is "a monkey funeral." This is a great achievement in animal training and old and young alike will take pleasure in the specialty.

Mort Fox is one of the cleverest of Hebrew humorists and he comes with an assorted stock of stories, with parodies on the latest songs. Mort Fox is a real comedian and will deliver the goods.

Another act that is a success in advance will be Peppino, the premier acrobatist. Peppino comes with a repertoire of classic and popular selections and his playing is such that he will assuredly be one of the big hits of the show.

"The College Boy and the Maid" is the way Al Prince and Helen Deerie are billed. Their specialty consists of a collection of bright repartee, some singing and dancing. The Laundry Brothers are perfectly developed men and are artistic athletes who display their strength.

Tonight's performance closes the engagement of the present bill, which, in

OCCASIONALLY an enterprising and far-seeing praise agent comes along and says some one thing about the particular star he happens to be exploiting and says it so much better than someone not up to all the ways of praise agents can pile it on, that it's worth notice.

That's just what someone back in the New York office of David Belasco has done—sent out a beautifully-written tribute to Blanche Bates, which is supposed to be posted right in here—so I'll paste it.

"Blanche Bates in comedy! The more thought exhilarates, Blanche Bates, the bright, the happy, the laughing, who loves the sunshine and everything that lives, who fairly radiates good nature, and is adored by her friends, whose fine womanhood is a rare composite of sweet femininity, wholesome, artistic vigor, intellectual activity, beautified with that indefinable something called 'charm'.

"Blanche Bates, who, during the past few years, has scaled the artistic heights in such creative roles as 'Madame Butterfly,' 'The Darling of the Gods' and 'The Girl of the Golden West,' all Belasco masterpieces.

"Blanche Bates, whose acting coupled with the mighty plays and managerial acumen of David Belasco, has secured the greatest of living composers, Puccini, to write his two best operas, the first ever based on American themes.

"Blanche Bates is coming to play—here!"

"And we have David Belasco to thank for so joyous a promise.

"Thinking Blanche Bates—herself—in her present and present dramatic relationship, soon to be revealed here, she is 'Nobody's Widow.'

"Not merely does Blanche Bates play the character of Roxana, Clayton in 'Nobody's Widow,' she is the character. And if you have never known the real Blanche Bates before, meet her now.

"Here you will find the light spirit of comedy in its best phases, with the quiet sincerity of her few relieving touches of seriousness, which Mr. Belasco and Mr. Avery Hopwood, the brilliant young author, have wisely inserted. Here you will find that especially Blanche Bates' brand of gracious womanhood which makes any part she plays, farcical or tragic, deeply and appealingly human.

"This is the first time Mr. Belasco has presented Blanche Bates in such a role, but it has demonstrated anew her marvelous versatility and has added thousands to her long list of admirers.

"During her coming engagement at this theater, Mr. Belasco will present Blanche Bates with the same remarkable supporting cast that aided so effectively in maintaining her long run last season of seven months in New York. However, this is a Belasco principle: he does not engage high-salaried actors for plays; he casts the changeable personnel of his cast for other cities. He is square with his public: that is why the public remains loyal to him and why Miss Bates' engagement, which begins tomorrow night at the Hellig and lasts for six nights, should prove one of the most delightful of the year.

"Immediately following Miss Bates is William Hodge in 'The Man From Home,' sent by Leslie & Tompkins. For a seven-night run, Mr. Hodge has personally never appeared in Portland, although his play was here three seasons ago, at the old Columbia-Hellig. June 3-4-5 will bring Maude Hanford in 'Chantester' and June 6-7-8, Miss Halse, the charming, will come once more in 'The Spring Maid.'

"The past week at the Hellig saw 'Over Night,' a farce comedy that might have been much better than it was and again, it was a flop, a flop and a flop worse. It was only 'meh-jum'-fanny.

"The Baker Stock Company scored with 'The Girl of the Golden West' despite the fact that the play has been presented here more in the past three or four seasons than any other. The production especially was even more beautiful than former ones and credit is due Stage Director William Hill. Although Miss Adair was suffering all the week with an attack of throat trouble, she gave a strong sympathetic portrayal of the girl, while that of the outlaw by Harry Hilliard, which adds another feather to the cap of this handsome and already popular young leading man. Miss Adair will rest for two weeks on account of her throat trouble, and Manager Baker has borrowed a dainty little personage named Maude Hanford to play the ingenue leads in 'Brewster's Millions,' which starts this afternoon, from Oliver Morosco, of the Burbank Stock at Los Angeles. Miss Hanford and Mr. Hilliard should make a most pleasing combination, both being young, clever and good to look upon. 'Brewster's Millions,' that money-mad comedy dramatized from the book of George Barr McCutcheon, never fails to attract and was one of the Baker company's biggest successes of last season. It will be followed by 'The Deep Purple,' about which so much has already been written, and said, and then a big production of William A. Brady's 'Way Down East,' which has just been released for stock, is promised.

"The lyric musical comedy company sends its 'Harem' melange to make its last puts in as its new offering 'A Sunshine Girl' to the Orpheum comes 'The Sunshine Girl' and an extra feature in 'Fun in a Harem' at Pantages the new headliner is to be

## BLANCHE BATES IS BILLED

### 'Nobody's Widow' Will Hold Boards at Hellig Theater This Week.

The engagement of Blanche Bates at the Hellig for the week commencing tomorrow night, with the only matinee Saturday, has an especial Portland interest inasmuch as the star is a native Portland girl. Her first important histrionic success was achieved in Portland, and the theater that she is to appear in tomorrow night was consecrated to the drama by her when she turned the first spade of soil two years ago. Last season she played a leading part in the playlet, 'Nobody's Widow,' and the event will be an important social as well as dramatic event.

The central figure of this farcical romance, as it is designated in the advertising, is a keenly sensitive and dangerously attractive American woman, Roxana Clayton, who goes to Europe, falls in love for the first time in her life and precipitately marries the man of her choice. Before the honeymoon has risen above the wedding hour horizon, the newly-made benedict is discovered by his bride fondly embracing and kissing a young woman, who is afterwards recognized as a former sweetheart.

Piqued at what she thinks an unpardonable indiscretion, Roxana leaves him, returns to America, and, arrayed in the most stunning of widows weeds, announces the untimely death of her newly-wedded husband. At a house party in Palm Beach the husband confronts the unsuspecting Roxana and the complications come fast and furious, with the line of demarcation between farce and comedy so cleverly drawn that the master hand of David Belasco is readily recognized.

Miss Bates has always been admired for her great earnestness in anything she undertakes, and her success as the widow has been attained solely by her wonderful personal charm, intellectual and histrionic ability.

Her supporting company is the same that aided her so successfully in New York. Clayton during the eight months' run there, and includes Bruce McRae, Adelaide Prince, Kenneth Hunter, Edith Campbell, Alice Claire Elliot, Minor S. Watson, Arthur Hyman and others. The production and appearances disclose the infinite artistry of David Belasco as a producer.

There will be a matinee on Saturday only.

## ACTRESS WILL PLAY LEADING INGENUE ROLES AT BAKER THEATER.



For the next two weeks the leading ingenue roles of the Baker Stock Company will be played by Miss Maude Hanford, brought here especially by Manager Baker from Oliver Morosco's famous Burbank Stock Company of Los Angeles.

Miss Ida Adair has overtaken her voice the past season, and has been ordered by her physician to take absolute rest for the next two weeks in order to be able to appear in the plays that are leading with big star parts for the leading woman. Hence these two plays, 'The Deep Purple' and 'The Sunshine Girl,' have been selected in which the principal female roles are always played by the ingenue, and Miss Hanford was 'borrowed' from Oliver Morosco for the occasion.

Outside of the few big stars, it would be difficult to imagine a more dainty and winsome little actress than Miss Hanford and that she will spring with a bound into the affections of patrons of the Baker Stock Company goes without saying. Her experience has always made her a great favorite everywhere.

Miss Hanford will open with the Baker Company this afternoon in the role of Margaret Gray (Peggy), who is Monty Brewster's sweetheart in 'Brewster's Millions,' and will follow in the role of Doris Moore in 'The Deep Purple' next Sunday.



'Sunshine Girl' at the Orpheum.

## OTHER EXPOSITION OF HIS WONDERFUL TECHNIQUE AS A PRODUCER AND DRAMATURGIST.

Last season Miss Bates induced Mr. Belasco to provide her with a comedy, as she had labored for several seasons with the heavier or emotional side of the drama, with the result that he commissioned Avery Hopwood to write a thrilling act in the shipwreck scene.

Last season it ran for nearly eight months in New York City, and this year the New York verdict has been verified wherever played.

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## BREWSTER COMES TO BAKER

### Stock Company to Present Great Comedy Success All Week.

Readers of George Barr McCutcheon's noted novel, 'Brewster's Millions,' will enjoy a second treat in the production of the dramatic version by Baker stock company for the week opening this afternoon at the Baker. It is one of the most widely read books, and also one of the foremost comedies of the day, and has always been highly successful from the moment it was first presented in New York. Besides its remarkable laughing situations, it con-



Monty Brewster, who is billed as wonders of the air.

families of dancers. They are making their American debut after continued success in England and carry with them a carload of special scenery shipped from London, for use on the Orpheum circuit.

'Fun in a Harem' is the second big production on the new bill. This act is owned by John Miller, who is listed as the greatest dancing master in the world. Twelve pretty girls, six young men and four principals take part in the Turkish act, a pantomime, in which dancing is featured by the 22 members of the cast all of whom are graduates of Tiller's London school of dancing.

The six Etton girls sink in this number with their eccentric steps and many of the boys are down on the programme for specialties. Newspaper reviewers of 'Fun in a Harem' are full of praise, making the music of the big production is the hitting kind and the plot of 'Fun in a Harem' is funny, this combination making the whole entertainment sparkling.

Third on the new bill are the Lietzel sisters, who are billed as wonders of the air. The fair acrobats are said to possess greater muscular development than other women in the vaudeville or in the circus ring and advance notices of their act say its newness is refreshing when compared with other vaudeville turns of the kind.

Then Delmore and Light will entertain. Both members of this comedy team play the piano and they are cultured singers with a popular repertoire. Each takes his turn in occupying the center of the stage in producing a bright half-hour of fun.

Another comedy team to entertain is Nadell and Kane, whose chatter won notice of New York when their vaudeville turn was reviewed as a new act. Nadell and Kane are proclaimed as comedians with such vivacity that they give encores until they are exhausted.

Cogan and Parks are on the poster as 'those two eccentrics.' Both are young and were selected for the Orpheum circuit because of the pleasing eddity of the vaudeville turn created by them. A feature of their act is the mingling of singing and talking, neither of the comedians missing a count of the orchestra leaders in their quick changes from talk to song and vice versa, and vice versa, paint transparent landscapes both working at once on the same canvas.

Cecil Loran and Florence Holbrook in 'Julia and They Are' will close their engagement at the Orpheum tonight.

## SLUMS OF PARIS DEPICTED

### Scenes of Parisian Underworld to Be Staged at Pantages.

Scenes of the Parisian underworld, thrillingly depicted, fill 'A Night in the Slums of Paris,' the great one-act pantomime, with remarkable interest. The production will top line the programme at Pantages for the week commencing with the matinee tomorrow at 2:30, and in the cast will be seen such noted artists as Mile, Maise, M. Jules LeBarbe and many other charming French pantomimists, and wife, paint transparent landscapes both working at once on the same canvas.

Cecil Loran and Florence Holbrook in 'Julia and They Are' will close their engagement at the Orpheum tonight.

## THE MAN FROM HOME COMING

### American Snobbishness and European Fortune-Hunters Portrayed.

Liebler & Co. will present at the Hellig Theater for seven nights, beginning Sunday, May 24, William Hodge and the original New York company in the play by Booth Tarkington and Harry Leon Wilson entitled 'The Man From Home,' which has the remarkable record of 342 performances in Chicago, 70 weeks at the large Astor Theater in New York, 225 times in Boston and 117 times in Philadelphia. The scenes of this play are laid in Sorrento, Italy, and deal with a phase of life that of late years has come to be too well known by reason of its frequency. This is the attribute of some snobbish Americans in endeavoring to form marital alliances whereby good American gold is exchanged for more or less tarnished European title.

In this particular instance, Mr. Tarkington and Mr. Wilson have taken as their theme the fortunes of a brother and sister who have left their Indiana home years before, and who, since the death of their parents, have been hobnobbing with a class of penurious aristocrats who feel nothing but contempt for the boy and the girl and love for their gold. A marriage is about to be arranged when the quarrel of the two young people intervenes upon the scene, having come from his home for the express purpose of frustrating the plans of the titled ones, and by a series of clever coups shows up the fortune hunters in such a way that the girl turns from them all in loathing and disgust to her own people.

The play is in four acts and the action comprises a period of 24 hours. A special matinee will be given Saturday.

## 'THE DEEP PURPLE' COMING

### Baker Stock Company to Present Another Liebler Success.

The Liebler & Co. plays contracted for by Manager Baker have been the most successful offerings of the Baker Stock Company this season. Among them are 'The Fourth Estate,' 'Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch,' 'Alias Jimmy Valentine,' which have already been produced, and 'The Deep Purple,' which will follow 'Brewster's Millions' on open next Sunday matinee for the 'deep purple' which has a deeper strata of humanity—the world of clever crooks—and concerns an attempt to force an innocent young girl, who has been decoyed from her home to New York, to enter a criminal life and help them in their dastardly schemes. It is just the problem that so many societies and even the United States Government have been trying to solve—the protection of young and innocent girls, duped by clever schemers, from their homes in distant cities and forced into ruin and lives of crime. Of course it has its lighter (Concluded on Page 3.)

## WILLARD CLOSES HERE TODAY

### Portland Physicians Examine Freak Who Grows Before Your Eyes.

Willard, the man who grows, the strangest but ever seen in vaudeville, will close his performance at the Empress tonight's shows. Those who have not seen Willard actually grow before their eyes will scarcely believe that what he accomplishes is possible. Many Portland physicians have exam-

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