Dramatics

"The Girl of the Golden West," Alcazar Players, Baker Attraction.

Dorothy Jardon, Orpheum Star

The Metropole Foun, at the Hippodrome

Bob Fitzsimmons, Ex-World's Champion, at Pantages

BY LEONE CASS BAER.

ANNOUNCEMENT of the Actors' Fund Fair to be held in New York in May, are being sent out and publicity asked for the enterprise in all newspapers. This fair should elicit something more than passing interest, not only among members of the profession, but in every walk of metropolitan life. The actors' fund is maintained by contributions and by box-office receipts from occasional benefits. It is a worthy charity, and more than $70,000 is expended annually for the relief of those who have fallen upon evil times. In the heydey of life, in their prime, when a fair measure of prosperity is assured, actors and actresses are the first to respond to calls of distress. Every great disaster, every tragedy that touches a community, is followed quickly by benefits for which members of the profession volunteer as one person, it may be said. One has only to recall the San Francisco earthquake, the Johnstown flood and, more recently, the suffering in various parts of war-swept Europe, and the names of noted managers and players are at once associated with all efforts to mitigate the suffering of those brought low by misfortune.

An Actors' Fund Fair should prove to be one of the biggest successes financially of the year. Under the able direction of Daniel Frohman, Marc Klaw and Charles Burnham, it will be intelligently organized and, with the aid of all branches of the amusement world, public interest will be stimulated.

The proceeds are to go to the million-dollar endowment fund which is being raised. The affair is to be held at the Grand Central Palace on May 12-21. This has little to do with what is going on at the Heilig, or the Orpheum, or the Baker, or Pantages, or the Hip, or the Strand this week, but it's all news. Local events will occupy the Heilig when the Orpheum isn't occupying that theater until March 1, 2, 3, when "The Blue Paradise" will be offered. On March 8, 9, 10 "Princess Pat" arrives. Of premier importance is the season of grand opera, which promises to be one of the really stupendous events, and an artistic and financial success, since orders for seats are rolling into the box office. The engagement is for March 5 and 6, and the offerings will be "Aida," "Iris" and "Faust."

The Alcazar Players will open this afternoon in Belasco's "The Girl of the Golden West," one of the most important stock offerings of the year. Ruth Gates will appear as the girl, Albert McGovern as the outlaw and George Taylor the Sheriff. It is reported to have by far the greatest advance sale of the entire season, thus evidencing the genuine popularity of the famous Blanche Bates success. This, too, in face of the fact that Portland has already had the play six weeks, although the last time was six years ago. It is a scenic production of importance. The opening panorama curtain which slowly revolves for several minutes before finally ending up in the Polka Saloon and Dancehall kept by "the girl" is something that leaves a lasting impression.

Although the cast is a large one there are but two female roles, that of The Girl and the Squaw, and following out the general condition of mining town society in the California days of '49, the rest consists of a motley collection of miners, outlaws, Wells-Fargo men, gamblers and hangers-on of all sorts and nationalities. It is a picturesque play from beginning to end, and tells a vivid tale of real American romance, set in an atmosphere and day which many men still living in our midst can recall from a personal experience in early California during the days of the famous gold rushes.

Those attending the Baker this week should bear in mind that owing to the length of the play the evening curtain will rise promptly at 8 o'clock and on matinees at 2, and that no one can be seated during the action of the play.

Quite frequently—as a rule, in fact—we have to take the press agent's word for it in the advance announcements that So-and-So is coming to the Orpheum and is the greatest in her line ever seen on the American or any other stage, but this week we do not have to take anybody's word. We simply delve into the recollection of a year ago. Dorothy Jardon is the star of the Orpheum show opening at the Heilig this afternoon. When Dorothy was here last season she scored one of the really big hits of the year and in looking back she is remembered with Lillian Russell and one or two more Orpheum stars who set the town talking and created lines to the boxoffice.

Dorothy Jardon is a double star of the highest magnitude and when it is said that she has "a charming personality" that bromidic description can be taken literally. Once upon a time someone inquired of a group of stagehands who was the most popular "single" woman star in big-time vaudeville and stage manager, grips, electricians, flymen, the property man, assistant property man and stage door man replied "Dorothy Jardon." So, I take it, Dorothy Jardon may be safely set down in linotype as the most beloved "single" woman in the two-a-day realm.

Henry Hitt and Harrison Fisher, the famous artists, stood right up in public and declared that Dorothy Jardon is one of the ten most beautiful women in the world. They did not list the other nine, but whoever they are they will have to hurry to beat Dorothy. Dorothy was not known here when she visited Portland last year, but Portland audiences paid her the tribute which they give only to their pets, that is they applauded just as soon as the curtain rose and disclosed Dorothy in all her beauteous Japanesey array. Personally I am quite mad about her.

Unlike most stage beauties Dorothy Jardon has ability that almost surpasses her appearance. She has brains and individuality, and while she is one of the handsomest women behind the footlights she is one of the very few musical comedy favorites with a voice of grand opera timbre. Two grand opera impresarios in New York said she was an ideal "Carmen" and in trying to induce her to sing the opera declared her success in that role would undoubtedly equal that of Calve. Her first bid for fame was made in "Madame Sherry" and it was in that production that New York just opened its arms and embraced Dorothy as its very own. Then she was made star at the New York Winter Garden and the all-seeing Martin Beck held out an alluring contract and won her for the Orpheum circuit. Dorothy was the first star this season, say the theatrical journals, who was offered a rise in pay to make a return trip to the Far West. All of this being the case, it looks as if the crowds who were attracted by the Orpheum last week with the "Greater Morgan Dancers" and the road show ensemble, may call again to see Dorothy. And, as was said in the beginning, you do not have to take my word or anybody's word for it.

Dorothy Jardon has builded her own niche in Portland.

Bob Fitzsimmons, assisted by his young son, Bob, Jr., is to headline Pantages' new bill in a boxing act. An added attraction is that of "Mr. Chaser," a big musical comedy with a cast of ten people presented by Herman Becker.

At the Hippodrome the Aeroplane Girls, with a trio of attractive girls performing daring stunts in midair, tops the bill. The Metropole Four, a male quartet, is another attraction on this bill.

"THE BLUE PARADISE" COMING

Musical Comedy to Appear at Heilig March 1 and 2.

At the Heilig Theater, Broadway at Taylor, Thursday and Friday, March 1 and 2, will be the Shubert production of "The Blue Paradise," a musical comedy, in a prologue and two acts, which has been Americanized by Edgar Smith from the original Austrian book by Leo Stein. The play takes its title from an inn of the same name, supposed to be located in Vienna, and, although there are American characters in the operetta, all the scenes are laid in the Austrian capital. The story deals with the son of a wealthy Austrian, Rudolph Stoeger, who is overfond of conviviality and a constant visitor at the Blue Paradise Inn, where he has fallen in love with Mizzi, a flower girl at that resort. Rudolph's father decides that a change of scene will be well for him and sends him to America to make his fortune. This is the prologue. The action of the play itself begins 24 years later, when Rudolph returns to the scenes of his youth, after having accomplished his mission in America, only to find that everything has changed and that the little flower girl, who had promised to be true to him, is now the wife of one of his boon companions. Rudloph, however, does not allow this to weigh too heavily on him, and he turns to the widow of his late partner in America, who has followed him all the way from Chicago, and the curtain falls as she promises to marry him.

"GIRL OF GOLDEN WEST" IS ON

Baker Play Laid in California in Gold Rush Days Is Dreamy.

For two weeks or more mail orders have been pouring into Baker Theater box office from all parts of Oregon for seats for the widely advertised Belasco production of "The Girl of the Golden West" by the Alcazar Players.

This is one play that has never been produced in Oregon outside of Portland, although it is a pretty safe wager that every man and woman in the small cities has heard of it and longed for an opportunity to see it. It has one of the longest records for local production also, having been seen here altogether seven weeks before this season, but interest in it seems to be on the increase rather than otherwise.

The secret of all this triumphant success lies in the scenic beauty, romance and dramatic power of the play, which deals with life in a small mining town of California in the days of '49-'50. Its action centers about "the girl," who keeps a saloon and dancehall at Cloudy Mountain, a sweet, innocent girl, despite her wild surroundings and lack of culture. She longs for something and her soul tells her that there is something higher and better for her somewhere outside. But she is the idol of "the boys."

Jack Rance, the Sheriff, has no scruples in his attachment for her, and when Ramerrez, the road agent, comes along in the guise of Mr. Johnson, of Sacramento, and the girl is evidently attracted by him, Rance becomes insanely jealous. The scene shifts from the saloon to the girl's cabin up the mountain, later to her "school room," where she teaches the boys, and at the end shows a glorious sunrise in the Sierras, where these two, man and woman, have joined lives and are saying "good-bye" to their California.

It is all so beautiful, dreamy and romantic that its play on the emotions is irresistible. A wonderful scenic production is promised, with an immense cast in which Ruth Gates will play the Girl, Albert McGovern will play Ramerrez and George Taylor the Sheriff. Special note should be taken of the fact that the curtain will rise promptly at 8 evenings and 2 matinees, and that no one can be seated while it is up.

DOROTHY JARDON AT ORPHEUM

Artists Pick Her as One of World's Ten Most Beautiful Women.

Dorothy Jardon, who was selected by Henry Hutt and Harrison Fisher, famous artists, as one of the world's 10 most beautiful women, is the star of the Orpheum show which will begin a four days' engagement at the Heilig Theater this afternoon. Miss Jardon scored a distinct triumph in her first vaudeville tour last season and she is the first Orpheum headliner to win a return engagement to the Far West at a big increase in salary.

Miss Jardon not only is a beauty, but a singer of note. She is regarded as being one of the few musical comedy stars whose voice is of grand opera timbre, and New York impresarios announced that her "Carmen" equals that of the illustrious Calve.

Ruth Sarver, Musician at Strand Theater.

Miss Jardon made her first big hit in New York as a feature in "Madame Sherry" and thereafter she was made star of the New York Winter Garden, where she repeated the triumph that had placed her name in electric lights for the first time. She fashions her own vaudeville act and pays such great attention to detail that her stage setting is magnificent and the lighting effects are as well timed and as well blended as those of a road production. She is accompanied by her own pianist, who, for this tour, is Jerry Jamagin, who plays a medley during one of Miss Jardon's costume changes.

Miss Jardon's song programme includes "Oh, You Haunting Waltz," "Good Bye," by Tosti; "The Cigarette Song," from "Carmen"; "Keep the Home Fires Burning" and "The Long, Long Trail." In honor of Miss Jardon the Orpheum orchestra will play "The Long, Long Trail" as the exit number after the show.

Newspaper critics all along the Orpheum circuit have been lavish in praise of Miss Jardon. They extol her beauty, her voice and her costumes. So great has been the applause won by the star that her success this season looms as sensational.

The extra attraction of the show is the act offered by Florenz Tempest and Marion Sunshine, who call their entertainment "A Broadway Bouquet," which consists mainly of popular songs. Tempest and Sunshine are sisters, from Louisville, Ky. They appeared here at the old Orpheum in the Marquam Grand several years ago and the hit they made then is still bright in the annals of the Portland Orpheum.

The next big type act is that of Ed Flanagan and Neely Edwards, who will present their vaudeville classic called "Off and On." This act shows the routine of a song and dance duo and the action includes a rehearsal and a performance. Each is a clever comedian and the act is punctuated with laughs.

Old-timers known the world over are next. They are Fred Hallen and Mollie Fuller, who have been before the show-going public for the past 25 years. Their new Orpheum act is called "The Corridor of Time." It is a satire on fame, in which they recall old times in song and story before a curtain upon which the playbills of 25 years ago are depicted. Fred Hallen is the Hallen of the old-time partnership, Hallen and Hart. In the early days he was co-star in "Later On," "The Idea," "The First Prize Models" and other successes of the late '70s and the early '80s. Miss Fuller is the Mollie Fuller who was a great favorite in the days of our fathers in E. E. Rice's "Evangeline."

Remaining acts are Corbett, Shepard and Donovan, three boys who sing; Maria Lo and company of seven girls, presenting "porcelain" reproductions of the world's most famous pieces of Dresden and china ware; Witt and Winter, a pair of aces; the Orpheum Travel Weekly and the Orpheum concert orchestra, under the leadership of George E. Jeffery.

FITZSIMMONS AT PANTAGES

Son of Great Pugilist With His Father on Stage.

We have with us this week, friends, "Ruby Robert," that grand old man of the ring, Mr. Robert Fitzsimmons, and, standing right there at his side, Mr. Pantages begs to introduce Ruby Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., son of Bob, which is a way of saying that also he is a son of battle and every inch the actor that his father is. (Cheers.) It goes without saying, of course, that Fitzsimmons, sire and son, head the New Pantages bill. They have been heading it all over the circuit, and it has been an ovation. Everybody has had a welcome from the heart for one of the most courageous and two-fistedest lads that ever stepped through the ropes, and for the bright little chap who is all ways a chip off the old block. That Portland, which gave the ring that other grand little gladiator, Jack Dempsey, will have a reception for the big fellow is written in the guarantee.

And right on Ruby Robert's heels is "Mr. Chaser," with girls and girls and all kinds of fun. "Mr. Chaser" is another of those big Pantages musical comedy tabloids—dancing, singing and right clever "getoffs," with not enough plot to wad an airgun. "Mr. Chaser" quite lives up to his title, and that he has a fine discrimination is evidenced by the quality of the chorus.

Joe Chong Haw and dainty little Yuen Moey, "The Chinese Castles," offer another sensation. They are a dapper pair of Celestials, and their dancing is almost, if not quite, that way. Celestial is right. The act is beautifully dressed, and so is little Moey, who, figured by either the Occidental or Oriental standard, is just one little beauty.

Sol and Leslie Berns show in "The Train Announcer," which is a hodgepodge of patter, mostly Yiddish.

Anthony and Mack, in the Italian and the politician, put over a line of clever dialect, much fun and some pathos. The show carries the second episode of the new big serial, "The Secret Kingdom."

HIPPODROME ACTS ALL BIG

Aeroplane Girls Promise Distinctly Novel Feats.

The new bill at the Hippodrome that opens today is filled from end to end with big new acts that will appeal to variety fans. There is enough of the unusual included to make it a wonderfully strong bill.

The aeroplane girls, who sail high in the air and accomplish many thrilling aerial feats, have a distinct novelty in the amusement world. They are dainty misses, splendidly costumed, with an exhibition that is both entertaining and mysterious. The act will be a highly popular one with "Hip" audiences.

The Metropole Four, a male quartet billed as "Kings of Harmony," have an act that is both dignified and popular. They are heard in a repertoire of catchy, popular selections and there is a vim and dash about their singing that is irresistible. All will like this quartet.

"An Inside Job" is the title of the comedy dramatic playlet that registers a decided hit. Belle Barchus & Co. present this sketch, which includes elements of comedy, pathos and mystery. The cast is able and the story is sufficient to hold the closest attention throughout.

Castle and Davis are high-class musical artists. S. Leonard Davis, a blind pianist, is featured, and the music he renders is truly wonderful.

Mispah Selbini, "The Girl With the Form Divine," assisted by her company, offer clever and unusual dancing, juggling, hat spinning and tumbling feats. One of her stunts is to throw 20 butterfly somersaults in 20 seconds' time. Miss Selbini has a delightful personality that wins.

Eva Hall and Myron Beck will be heard in a musical treat and comedy offering entitled, "Opera and Uproar," that is good for any number of laughs. This pair were formerly musical comedy favorites, having appeared in "Peggy From Paris," "The Prince of Pilsen," "Woodland," with the Savage English Grand Opera Company and other strong attractions.

The latest episode in "Pearl of the Army," featuring Pearl White, is the leading film on the motion picture part of the programme. Performances are continuous today from 1:15 to 11 P. M.

170 IN OPERA COMPANY CAST

Two Standard Opera and One Distinct Grand Opera Novelty Billed.

The second annual tour of the famous Boston National Grand Opera Company, numbering 170 persons, will bring this organization to Portland for a special return engagement of three performances at the Eleventh-street Playhouse Monday and Tuesday, March 5 and 6.

Two standard operas and one distinct grand opera novelty—Mascagni's new Japanese work, "Iris"—will be given, with the casts arranged as follows:

Monday evening, March 5, "Aida," with Luisa Villani, Giovanni Zenatello, George Baklanoff, Virgilio Lazzari and others; Tuesday afternoon, "Iris," with Tamaki Miura, Japanese prima donna soprano; Thomas Chalmers, Tovia Kittay, Virgilio Lazzari, Elvira Leveroni, Romeo Boccacci and others; Tuesday evening, "Faust," with Riccardo Martin, Maggie Teyte, Jose Mardones, Graham Marr, Girgio Pulitti, Maria Winietskaja and others.

Of the artistic worth of this engagement there is every indication that it will equal, if indeed it does not in many respects, surpass, the Boston National triumph here last year on the occasion of its first appearance in Portland. The fact that Managing Director Rabinoff this season has added a number of new and famous singers and greatly augmented the chorus and orchestra would seem to insure an even greater treat for Portland music patrons.

In addition to presenting individual stars, it is Mr. Rabinoff's purpose to present grand opera in which principals and chorus, scenic embellishments and lighting novelties are merged into one perfect ensemble. Realism in scenery, as in dramatic interpretation, is said to be the foremost Rabinoff idea, and in consequence we shall again witness both artistic actuality and productions massive and beautiful.

STRAND PROMISES STAR BILL

Singing, Dancing and Instrumental Music Offered.

The new bill which is to open at the Strand Theater, Sunday afternoon, is a five-pointed star with a Bluebird perched on the fifth point to make glad the hearts of the patrons of Photoville.

The four other points, which constitute the vaudeville section of the bill, include singing, dancing, instrumental musical stunts, balanced up in just the proportion to whet the appetite of a vaudeville fan.

Cumby and Brown open the bill with a singing and dancing act, featuring novel and original steps and offering some droll comedy.

Sarver and Miller are a pair of clever girls with a musical act that is pretty and original. Violin and piano are their instruments and they offer also some delightful singing numbers.

For a little dash of dancing and a jolly line of patter of the type that makes the vaudeville patron glad he came, there are McCarthy and Gibson, a man and a woman with lots of "pep" and lots of originality, and closing the vaudeville there is pretty Florence Merritt.

Florence Merritt is a dainty singing comedienne with some of the most appealing of the popular songs, which she presents with an original touch that is all her own and that has made for her a history of successes along the circuit.

"The Reward of the Faithless" is the photodrama featured in the new bill, a Bluebird sequel to the powerful drama, "Black Orchids," which made such a hit a few weeks back. A new screen star appears in the Bluebird firmament in this new film, in the person of Wedgewood Nowell, who has been leading man in all of the Rex Ingram productions for the Bluebird and is now advanced to stardom in the role of Guido Capanelli, the intriguing villain, who dominates the development of the play.

The dramatic tale of the "Vendetta," which readers of Marie Corelli's works will remember, is surpassed in the plot of this film, only in this case it is a woman who is wronged and who wreaks vengeance upon the faithless man.

The eighth episode of the "Purple Mask," with Patricia in America and heading a more strongly organized Apache band than she led in France, will be run as an additional attraction in the shows of Monday and Tuesday.

BAKER GETS GOOD FARCE

"Blue Envelope" Billed for Next Week to Make Folks Laugh.

Following "The Girl of the Golden West," the Alcazar Players will be seen in "The Blue Envelope," a broad and breezy farce, which enjoyed a long run at the Cort Theater in New York last season. Few genuine farces have been seen here in stock recently, plays that have absolutely no serious purpose in life, intended only to produce laughs, and the change should be a welcome one for a week.

It is fast and furious, and it is written around a couple of chaps who get into the power of an adventuress, a clinging vine blonde. A certain blue envelope which contains incriminating evidence against them figures prominently in the plot, which leads to a rest sanitarium, and mixes the characters up in a manner so ludicrous as to be a perfect scream from start to finish.

The trouble with most people used to attending serious plays is that they try to take farces seriously, and thereby miss all the genuine harmless fun. If they go to see a Fatty Arbuckle film they know just what they are going to see and get in the mood for it. If they tried to take it seriously, however, the experience would be positively painful to them, and it is the same way if they try to take a broad, rattling farce like "The Blue Envelope" seriously.

It's fun, pure and simple.

HOME CREDIT PLAN LIKED

Buena Vista and Fairview Districts Taking Interest.

BUENA VISTA, Or., Feb. 17.—(Special.)—Pupils of the Buena Vista and Fairview districts are taking active interest in the home credit system. From reports from the parents alterations in the original plans have produced unexpected results. The capacity for work by the pupils is seen to be increased more than thought possible by advocates by changes in the system. Credit now is given for milking cows, doing housework, performing various kinds of tasks about the home, walking long distances to school, and pupils are being rewarded for exceptionally high averages at school.

The Buena Vista School Board finds that "tasks" have been turned into "pleasures" by the instrument of reward for best service. Several districts in Polk County are planning on the offering of cash prizes for first, second and third winners of the annual contest of their districts.

CO-EDS' WAGES DISCUSSED

Conference Held With Employers at Eugene.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Feb. 17.—(Special.) — Three special meetings under the supervision of the board of directors of the university Y. W. C. A. have been held during the past week to discuss the problems connected with the wages, time and diversity of work that the university co-eds are doing for remunerative purposes. The first meeting was composed of the people who employ university co-eds, the second was a conference of the girls who are doing work, and the last meeting was a combination of the two.

A standard wage has been set for special work and a new system of procuring employment has been adopted by the Y. W. C. A. The meetings were the result of investigation by Miss Elizabeth Fox, dean of women.

6 FIRMS SEEK RABBIT FUR

Eastern Factory Wants All Skins Obtainable at 5 Cents Each.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Feb. 17.—(Special.)—Oregon jackrabbit furs have been accepted as satisfactory for making hatters' felt by six large Eastern manufacturers. Another Eastern firm has placed a test order for 1000 skins with R. A. Ward, United States Assistant Biologist, who has sent several sample bales to Eastern hat firms.

Mr. Ward, who is conducting an anti-jackrabbit campaign in Klamath County in co-operation with the county agent, reports a standing order for all skins that can be furnished at 5 cents apiece. The fur is satisfactorily taking the place of former Australian and Belgian importations that have been interrupted by the European conflict.

FLYING TRAINING OFFERED

Curtiss School Sends Notice to University of Oregon.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON Eugene, Feb. 17.—(Special.)—The Curtiss Aero Training School, of Buffalo, N. Y., has notified the university that training may be had with that company in Florida.

The training, which will be for the Aerial Reserve Corps, is offered to those young men between the ages of 21 and 27 who have a college education or the equivalent of same. The tuition necessary for entrance will be paid by the Government.

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