

The Silent Drama



Elaine Hammerstein, Star of "The Co-Respondent," at Peoples.

TODAY'S FILM FEATURES.
Columbia—Marguerite Clark, "Bab's Matinee Idol."
Liberty—Norma Talmadge, "The Secret of the Storm Country."
Majestic—Dustin Farnum, "North of Fifty-Three."
Peoples—Elaine Hammerstein, "The Co-Respondent."
Star—"The Witching Hour."
Sunset—William Farnum, "The Conqueror."
Globe—Wallace Reid, "The Squaw Man's Son."

REVERSING the usual order of cutting motion picture production to a minimum during the winter season in California, this year extensive building is being done, both in the way of improving studios already established and building other studios.

The Metro Studios have added one stage to an already complete plant, and have purchased adjoining property on which to build further stages, properly roofed, to accommodate the companies they intend to bring to California to produce.

The Balboa Company has just completed a 150,000 dollar structural plant for its studios at Long Beach.

The Mena Film Company, whose first picture, "By Super Strategy," is nearing completion, is removing the elaborate settings built for the modern period of its story, and a steel structural glass-enclosed stage, 100x120, will be built adjoining its large open-air stage.

Mary Sees Duty Clearly. Mary Pickford has been a very busy little person with her self-imposed duties concerning the war in addition to her studio work for Arctcraft picture.

Regarding the "stay at home" boys, Miss Pickford has brought home to us the more closely since our own boys are at the front in France. No matter what calls have been made upon us before, we must continue to deny ourselves many things in order to bring what joy we may to these boys, whose Christmas will lack most of the things which made the holiday season glad for them at home while we are doing this we must not forget the poor at home, whom we have always with us.

"In countless homes, in all the studios, even in the streets, cafes and theaters, we hear the click of the knitting needles and watch with interest the busy workers, eager to serve the boys who are somewhere in France. Mufflers and wristbands are keeping their hearts warm by writing letters to the lonely fellows who have no dear ones at home. I have written many letters myself, and have persuaded my friends to write, and it is touching to see how the boys appreciate it. They no longer feel alone, unloved and unloved for."

"These boys will be glad to receive letters from any of you—just a few homely words in a cheerful tone. Women young and old, can find out the name of some boy 'out there' and add to the joy of living by making him feel there is someone here who is interested in him."

"Also, we should not forget the wives and children of the soldiers, and look in and see if they lack anything for their comfort and the enjoyment of the Yuletide spirit."

The Knitting Craze. "I understand," said Max Murray the other day, "that now all the picture actors, as well as the picture actresses, will have to knit in their leisure moments in the studio. Of course, the fascination of it will get them, and won't it be just too funny to see Bill Hart grinding his teeth in a close-up while his hands are peacefully knitting? And Doug Fairbanks will always be leaving his knitting-needles about, under foot, for people to step on while he leaps over church steeples and things. Harry Carey will be discerned in off-moments riding across the landscape, reins flying, while he knits. And if you see a car zig-zagging along Chabogna Pass you'll know it's Herb Rawlinson tending to his knitting. And can't you imagine Franklin Panzer's director yelling at him to come into a scene, and Franklin answering peevishly, 'My Gawd, Joe, can't you wait a moment? You made me drop a stitch.'"

Matinee to Direct Orchestra. Albert Hay Malotte, organist of the Liberty Theater, is putting in some long hours these days. Up early in the morning, he devotes two hours to practice on the Wurlitzer Unit Orchestra organ, presides over the organ several hours in the afternoon and evening, musically interpreting photo-

play attractions, and at 11 o'clock at night plunges into rehearsal with a 12-piece orchestra. This orchestra will be the featured attraction of the Geraldine Farrar spectacle-story, "Joan the Woman," which will be shown at the Liberty for one week commencing next Sunday. Four de luxe showings will be given daily, at 2 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and then at 8 and 10 o'clock at night.

Has Illustrious Grandfather. Elaine Hammerstein, young star of "The Co-Respondent," first went upon the "legitimate" stage at the tender age of five. It was when her famous grandfather, Oscar Hammerstein, was producing a comic opera.

George Anderson, actor-husband of Fritzie Scheff, who is appearing on Broadway in the new Arthur Hammerstein musical comedy success, "Furs and Frills," is prominently cast as Howard Van Kreal, the dissolute New York multi-millionaire, in "The Co-Respondent." This picture, made by Ralph W. Ince, is after the stage success of the same name by Alice Leah Pollock and Rita Weiman, in which Victor Dana, already at the Booth Theater, New York, two years ago.

"Dusty" Treasures Hat. Among the possessions which he treasures most, Dustin Farnum, star of William Fox's "North of Fifty-Three," counts a soft Alpine hat, once the property of Richard Hardin Davis. Before the death of the noted author, Mr. Farnum wore the hat frequently; since his death he has been wearing it as a remembrance of one of the pleasantest friendships of his life.

About two years ago, Dustin Farnum went to Cuba with a motion picture company which was to picture Davis' "Soldiers of Fortune." The writer, who had long been a close friend of the actor, accompanied him on many of his trips. On location one day, Mr. Farnum found that he needed an extra hat, and he had brought only one with him. "Dick" Davis offered him his.

Mr. Davis' reputation in matters of haberdashery is too well known to need explanation. He always dresses in the best of style. Consequently the hat which he was wearing suited the part Mr. Farnum was playing to a "T."

Once photographed in the hat, however, Mr. Farnum found that he would have to wear it throughout the picture. It was required in scene after scene. He had to get into his baggage and fetch out new headgear.

When the picture was completed, the actor offered to return the hat to Mr. Davis. "It's yours, now Dusty," said "Dick" Davis. You've got an easement on it by constant wearing of it. Keep it for yourself."

That was how the big actor came into possession of the hat which he has worn in several photoplays and which formerly accompanied him on many shooting and fishing expeditions.

"Witching Hour" Expensive. After competing with some of the largest producers of special attractions, the Frohman Amusement Corporation, was finally able to secure the motion picture rights to the internationally famous drama, "The Witching Hour," at a price which is reported to have been the largest sum paid for the cinema rights to any legitimate attraction.

Mr. Thomas, the author of the play, was quite unwilling to entrust the screening of so difficult a production to any concern without his being morally certain that full justice would be done to the wonderful and unusual theme embraced in the play. Mr. Thomas finally consented that the Frohman Amusement Corporation should visualize "The Witching Hour," largely because of the wonderful work done by that company in its prior productions.

Marguerite Not Five Feet Tall. A well-known saying exists to the effect that the best goods come in the smallest packages. This applies to diamonds and food-stuffs—under wartime conditions—and Marguerite Clark under any conditions, at any time, in any place. Marguerite Clark is one of the tiniest of all the small motion picture stars of the film firmament—and it has long been a noticeable fact that the greatest stars are the smallest. Just between you and I, Miss Clark measures exactly 4 feet 10 inches in her tiny silk-clad stocking feet!

Miss Clark's father was a storekeeper in Cincinnati, Ohio, and it was the sister who was responsible for sending Marguerite to the Ursuline Convent near Cincinnati, where she remained for several years. Later, Marguerite began to emerge from her cocoon and appeared in a number of amateur theatrical performances, which gave her such pleasure and brought her so many compliments

and favorable comments on her work that she decided to make theatrical work her ambitious career. It was with the Aborn Opera Company at Baltimore, however, that the full butterfly Marguerite Clark emerged into popular favor, and ever since then she has been indeed a "butterfly" flitting from one success to another, both on the legitimate stage and in pictures.

Some of her best known stage successes were: "Jim, the Penman," "Baby Mine," "Light of London," "Affairs of Anatole," "Snow White," and "Prunella."

It was a photograph of her in "Prunella" that caught the eye of Adolph Zukor, president of the Famous Players-Lasky Corporation.

Thus it was that Miss Clark began her picture career, which soon led her to definitely forsake the stage.

Rodeo for Red Cross. Yip! Yip! Wild and woolly West. Douglas Fairbanks is planning an elaborate rodeo for the benefit of the American Red Cross, soon to take place in Los Angeles.

He promises some thrilling bucking bronchos, fancy riding, and a revival of the '49 days.

There will be military bands, Indians, cowboys galore, circus clowns, and all things necessary to complete this Red Cross Rodeo—an event that will make Los Angeles sit up in amazement.

Through the courtesy of John P. Powers and Tom Darnody, the ball park will be transformed into a world's West arena, with its tents and picturesque corral.

It is Fairbanks' ambition to secure the rights to the greatest champion west of Cheyenne, Wyo.

Players to Have Party. Enid Bennett, Thomas H. Ince's Australian screen star, now working on her first Paramount picture, will entertain a party of her fellow-artists on the silent drama with a real, old-fashioned Christmas.

Miss Bennett's plans contemplate a trip from Los Angeles to the famous Bear Valley where the fir trees rise to great heights and where six cabins have been erected for the occasion. During the days the Ince players will spend their time at various outdoor sports, in the picturesque valley where snow comes early and stays late.

Andrew Jackson Was Right. Sam Houston, the Texas pioneer, whom William Farnum impersonates in "The Conqueror," had a real accurate aim which is recommended to the boys in khaki who go from the United States to help carry on the battle for freedom in France.

Sam inherited his system from Andrew Jackson, who guaranteed it never to fail.

When Houston fought his one and only duel in Kentucky, with General William White, he was observed to slip something into his mouth. After the fight, which he won, he was unscathed and White was severely wounded, someone asked about the incident.

"It was a bullet," Sam said in a matter-of-fact tone. "Andy Jackson told me that it was always advisable to have something in the mouth to bite on. It makes the aim better."

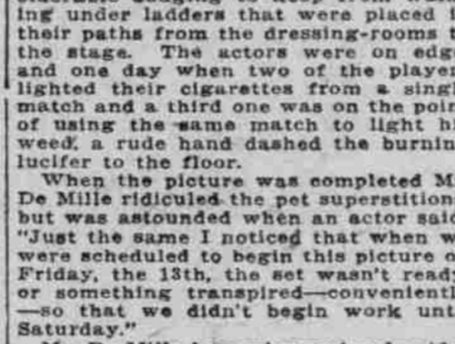
Needs Two Secretaries. Elsie Ferguson, despite her tremendous success on the stage, always found it within human possibility to handle her personal correspondence herself. Soon after her debut as a screen star, however, in "Barbary Sheep," the beautiful actress found it necessary to hire a secretary to assist her in taking care of the hundreds of daily letters from admirers. With the release of her second Arctcraft picture, "The Rise of Jennie Cushing," Miss Ferguson's secretary, after spending many days and nights in an effort to catch up with the work, requested further assistance with the result that the popular stage and screen star now has two secretaries.



Norma Talmadge, in "The Secret of the Storm Country," at Liberty.



Dustin Farnum, in "North of Fifty-Three," at Majestic.



Marguerite Clark, in "Bab's Matinee Idol," at Columbia.

oaks hung in the shadows; coal black cats scampered around, broken mirrors appeared, and the actors had to do considerable dodging to keep from walking under ladders that were placed in their paths from the dressing-rooms to the stage. The actors were on edge, and one day when two of the players lit their cigarettes from a single match and a third one was on the point of using the same match to light his weed, a rude hand dashed the burning lucifer to the floor.

When the picture was completed, Mr. De Mille ridiculed the pet superstitions, but was astounded when an actor said: "Just the same I noticed that when we were scheduled to begin this picture on Friday, the 13th, the set wasn't ready, or something transpired—conveniently so—that we didn't begin work until Saturday."

Mr. De Mille has subconsciously sidestepped another supposed harbinger of bad luck.

PROGRAMME WELL BALANCED. Dustin Farnum is Star of Feature Photoplay at Majestic.

The Majestic Theater presented one of the best-balanced programmes in many weeks when the new bill opened yesterday with Dustin Farnum in "North of Fifty-Three" and two reels of "The Retreat of the Germans at the Battle of Arras."

"North of Fifty-Three" is from the story by Sinclair and, as its title implies, is a red-blooded tale of Alaska and the North woods. Dustin Farnum, Kirby and other dramas, has the big role, playing "Roaring Bill" Wagstaff, a character of which he makes an excellent shooting in the picture.

The girl, Hazel West, played by Winifred Kingston, comes to Alaska to escape a scandal which her employer had resented his advances. She meets Big Bill at Caribou Meadows, where his partner has been found murdered in the snow. Here the plot unfolds rapidly. The girl's story follows her, but Big Bill refuses to believe it. He attaches the girl to marry him, which she does.

Then the publication of her former employer's diary clears her name and she and Big Bill go to her home. He has awkward brushes with "Society" and goes back to Alaska, his wife refusing to go back to the life that has been oppressive to her. After a few days she decides to join him, while he, becoming lonely, plans to go back to her. How the incidents lead to the discovery of the murderer of Bill's partner makes an interesting story with a happy ending.

"The Retreat of the Germans at the Battle of Arras" presents two reels of actual war scenes of the most interesting character. These are the official British government war pictures and contain many scenes taken when the cameraman was under gun fire, scenes of No Man's Land, actual cannonading and the latest Hoar-of-Faith News, showing the victory of the Allies, the capture of 11,000 prisoners by the British, complete the Majestic programme.



William Farnum, Star of "The Conqueror" at Sunset.



Marguerite Clark, in "Bab's Matinee Idol," at Columbia.

of the taking to a small New England hotel of a very pretty young maiden who as the mook knot is about to be tied, discovers the perfidy of the soon-to-be husband and boards a train straight for New York. It seems the maiden has been writing very good stories and selling them to a managing editor of an important metropolitan daily and he gives her a job on his staff, where she soon distinguishes herself. When everyone else falls down on securing the name of "The Co-Respondent" in the exclusive Van Kreal divorce case, the facts of which have been outlined in the paper in very peculiar fashion, young Miss Gray goes out to the Fifth Avenue mansion and sees her once-upon-a-time suitor and the husband of the society woman are one and the same. And that she—and no one else, because of the circumstances of her near-marriage—has been named as "The Co-Respondent." She faces then the choice of seeing herself shown up to her managing editor as the co-respondent and losing her chance of happiness or her career come to an end. She chooses the latter course as the paper, how her difficulties are solved and how the public, in the end, gets the whole truth, from the paper forms a most absorbing and unusual story.

NORMA TALMADGE AT LIBERTY in "The Secret of the Storm Country" Is Sequel to "Tess of Storm Country."

Mother love is the theme employed in "The Secret of the Storm Country," the latest film vehicle of the brilliant and beautiful Norma Talmadge, which opens today at the Liberty Theater. This picture is a sequel of that enormously popular Mary Pickford subject, "Tess of the Storm Country."

In this new picture Miss Talmadge plays the role of a little squatter girl, to whom love and marriage come in several ways, and her interpretation of the character is said to be an exceptionally fine bit of emotional work.

Fessie Skinner, daughter of Orin Skinner, is the idol of the squatter settlement on Lake Cayuga. Tess is extremely happy in the devotion of Frederick Graves, who has married her secretly, and the presence of her father, pardoned from prison.

Her happiness is short-lived, however, for Graves informs her that her mother, who has an ambitious future mapped out for her son, has ordered him to wed Madeline Waldstricker, daughter of a wealthy man who is the arch enemy of the squatters.

Tess, too broken to fight for her rights, consents to keep their marriage secret and permit the other wedding. He and his pseudo wife, immediately after the wedding, leave on an extended tour. A short time later Orin Skinner dies, leaving Tess without a protector in her hour of need. Her condition becomes known to the villagers, and at the instigation of Ebenezer Waldstricker, call her to task before the church council and attempt to force her into marriage with the village miser-do-well, Sandy Letta.

From there on the action moves rapidly to a thrilling climax. Tess weathers the storm of heartbreak and sorrow, holds fast to her ideal of motherhood and fights her way back to level ground.

"WITCHING HOUR" AT STAR Seven-Reel Feature Is Elaborate Production; 2500 Scenes.

The hereditary fear of a cat's eye forms the basic influence that causes the number of complications to arise in Augustus Thomas' famous play, "The Witching Hour," a screen version of which, produced by the Frohman Amusement Corporation, will be shown at the Star Theater commencing today.

This beautiful and all-absorbing subject is said to receive wonderful treatment at the hands of a most unusual cast of screen and stage favorites,



William Farnum, Star of "The Conqueror" at Sunset.



Marguerite Clark, in "Bab's Matinee Idol," at Columbia.

headed by C. Aubrey Smith, Jack Sherrill and Marie Shotwell.

The production is unusual in its dramatic treatment and decidedly elaborate in its setting. The main theme carried throughout the production might briefly be summed up in a very few words: "As we think evil, so will evil occur."

The cast employed in this production is a large one, and the interior properties and furnishings are valued in excess of \$50,000. Among original paintings carried through the production might briefly be summed up in a very few words: "As we think evil, so will evil occur."

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