

WAR'S ALARMS FAIL TO TERRIFY NEW YORK THEATRICAL PRODUCERS TO MODIFY PLANS

"Follies of 1918" Produced on a More Spectacular Scale Than Any of Their Predecessors—Shuberts and Henry Miller Announce New Productions—John Cort Has Extensive Plans.



BY ELIZABETH LONERGAN.

NEW YORK, July 6.—(Special).—

The summer season is always formally opened by the new Follies show, and if 1918 can be depended upon to follow the lead, New York will have some exceptionally fine summer attractions. The cast comprises more than 150, with some of the biggest names in the profession on its list. Ray Laurell, who returns after an absence of several years, Marilyn Miller making her debut under Mr. Ziegfeld's management; Lillian Lorraine, Eddie Cantor, Will Rogers, Bert Williams, W. C. Fields, Ann Pennington, Allyn King, Frisco, Savoy and Brennan, Frank Carter, Ben Palmer, the Fairbanks twins, Dolores and many others are in the cast. One critic sums up the general impression of the others in his headline, "Ziegfeld Out-Ziegfelds Ziegfeld."

The new Follies owes its success to a number of people. First of all to Mr. Ziegfeld for carrying out the plans of others with his master touch; to Renold Wolf and Gene Buck for the lines and lyrics; to Louis Hirsch and Dave Samcor for the musical score; to Joseph Urban for the wonderful scenery; to Ned Wayburn and Mr. Ziegfeld for the song hits; to Victor Jacoby for a special wait number, and to Ben Ali Haggin for a most beautiful original picture.

One of the biggest song hits is "The Evening Star," sung by Lillian Lorraine, assisted by a group of girls in such dazzling costumes that the audience was literally blinded by the glare. Eddie Cantor has one funny number as office boy in the patent attorney's office and sings "After the Ball" (not at all related to the original song, except by similarity of name), and Marilyn Miller and Ann Pennington share dancing honors.

Ticket Scalpers Follied.

Of great importance to theatrical managers is the attempt of Mr. Ziegfeld to cope with the ticket scalper during the run of his production. Each year he has attempted to deal with the situation with small success, so he decided

upon the presentation of the 12th edition to take drastic measures. Announcements were printed in the newspapers and upon signboards in conspicuous places that seats for the Follies could be secured only at the box office.

After the first trial of the new plan he wrote to the press: "It gives me great personal satisfaction to see an upstart line at the box office in the New Amsterdam Theater in answer to my announcement that all seats for 'Ziegfeld Follies' will be sold at the box office instead of through the hotel agencies and ticket speculators, and I am making an honest effort to stop profiteering in theater tickets." He added that tickets were offered to the various agencies with the positive understanding that they be sold for not more than 50 cents advance, agencies to give a written agreement to the effect but the agents refused his terms. Tickets are now on sale for the entire house, "first come, first served." In return, it is said that the speculators are knocking the show, but Mr. Ziegfeld's experiment is being eagerly watched and may revolutionize conditions in the fall.

"Fancy Free" to Come West.

The first announcement since the inauguration of the new railroad rates about coast tours, came from the Shubert offices last week, when it was announced that "Fancy Free," in which Clifton Crawford has been starring, will go to the Pacific Coast on tour after the clever comedian has a deserved vacation. It is assumed that Portland will be included in the plans and the transportation of the large cast and heavy scenery will be a big item of expense, which will of course be returned three-fold as the result of the trip.

"Seventeen" Continues Run.

"Seventeen," Booth Tarkington's story which has run almost the entire season at the Booth, will probably continue through the summer. This play

is one example of the superiority of the spoken over the picture version of the story. While "Seventeen" made a good film, it is an infinitely better play, for the clever lines add much to the enjoyment of the experience of the little group of boys and girls who are "just seventeen." It takes the grown folks back to those days when they were on the border line between childhood and maturity and brings many memories of almost forgotten days.

Stuart Walker, who made the production, is at present supervising his stock company in Indianapolis, Indiana. During his absence last week, Booth Tarkington slipped quietly into the theater to see his play once more. His presence in the house was discovered and he had quite an ovation from the large and enthusiastic audience.

"Seventeen" has enjoyed a most prosperous run and it is to be hoped that its successor, if Mr. Walker decides to bring out a new play next season, will be equally enjoyable. The cast has had few changes since opening, the most important being that of Judith Lawry for Florence Hart who created the role of Mrs. Baxter. Miss Lowry gives a sympathetic picture of the understanding mother but is almost too young and too pretty to have so old a son. Fred Strong is the new "Genesis" and gives a comical but the best there is in it. Led Medbury, as Mrs. Baxter, Lillian Ross as the irrepressible Jane, Gregory Kelly as Willie, Neil Martin, and Ruth Gordon as Lola Pratt have their former parts. It is to be hoped that Mr. Walker will send a company west so that his friends who enjoyed the Portmanteau Theater may see his big play in a real theater.

Henry Miller Has New Play.

Henry Miller's first production of the new season will be a play for Ray Chatterton which will open the year at the theater which bears his name. Whether this play will be produced

first on the Coast, as in other years, has not been announced.

Miss Billie Burke, who has been sharing the honors with Mr. Miller in his revival of "A Marriage of Convenience," will devote her summer to pleasure with an Miss Miller will spend his in California, possibly planning to present other plays with the O. K. of the Coast on them. His first season as actor-manager-producer-theater owner has proved very satisfactory to everybody.

Nora Bayes to Star.

Nora Bayes, who was featured in the Cohan Revue for 1918, is to be starred by H. H. Frazee in a musical comedy next fall. Harry R. Smith has written the book, at this time nameless, and A. Baldwin Sloane composed the music. Announcement from the Frazee office fixes the time of opening on Broadway as September 23, with a preliminary season in Washington which will start at the Belasco Theater on September 2.

New Part For Alma Tell.

Alma Tell, who it will be recalled played the principal woman's role in "The Squab Farm," which the Shuberts put on recently, will have a similar role in a new production in the fall. It is called "The Black Pearl" and is a modern society drama. Instead of waiting until a few weeks before its premiere and then giving a few performances, the Shuberts have tried it out in stock and the Broad Street Theater, Newark, very quietly produced it last week. Several changes will be made in the production and a new cast will play it in the fall, but the experiment was well worth trying. Miss Tell is a very pretty woman with a pleasing personality and has made considerable strides during the past couple of seasons.

Seven Attractions Stick.

The mystic number "seven" is attached to the number of dramatic attractions on Broadway. Besides "Seventeen," there are still playing: "A Tailor-made Man," "Buster Before Pleasure," "The Man Who Stayed at Home," "Tiger Rose," "Eyes of Youth" and "Parlor, Bedroom and Bath."

John Cort's Plans.

John Cort has announced his plans for the coming year. Three "Flo Flo" companies will be sent out and two new musical plays produced, as well as a drama and other well-known plays. It is called "The Accomplish," and should give Miss Victor the chance she has been looking for since her great success in "Just a Woman." Eleanor Painter, of "Princess Pat" fame, will be featured in "Gloriana" by Catherine Cushing and will have a singing role after her brief appearance in drama. Joseph Leotora will have the principal male role in "Fiddlers Three" (an operetta) and Louis Benison, last seen under Mr. Cort's management in "Johnny Get Your Gun" will be starred in a comedy with music.

Brady Acquires London Hit.

William Brady has acquired the rights to "The Chinese Puzzle," which has been one of the hits of the London season. Marion Bower and Leon M. Lion are the authors and it was brought out at the New Theater, London. Mr. Brady's company will give the first production sometime before August. The play will be produced at and will open his New York season in August at one of his theaters.

CALIFORNIANS AID FRANCE

Cargo of Food and Wearing Apparel to Be Given Sufferers.

LOS ANGELES, June 27.—War's influence upon benevolence has resulted in the strictest secrecy as to the plans for shipping to France a relief cargo of varied composition and valued at more than \$100,000.

While before the entrance of the United States into the war the charitable donations of Californians to the sufferers of France and Belgium were known to the world and the departure and route of vessels bearing them to Europe were data free to all, fear of the activities of German spies had brought about a condition in which secrecy forms a prominent part.

The vessel which will be utilized in bearing the cargo to France and the date upon which it will sail, not to mention the route to be taken, are matters for the determination of the United States Shipping Board and officials here declare that members of that body will not make public announcements as to their plans.

The cargo is a gift of the people of Southern California, fully 100,000 men, women and children joining in making the contributions which 150 Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade, churches and social, civic and fraternal organizations have also had their share in its collection.

Not only wearing apparel and imperishable foodstuffs, but games and toys for the children of France, are thus being sent to the children of Southern California, form parts of the shipment.

To avoid as much as possible the expense of gathering the articles donated, the givers carried all they could to the various headquarters. Many women of wealth canvassed residential districts in automobiles and in their cars took to the points of collection articles too heavy or unwieldy to be transported by hand.

The plan was formulated by Harry Chandler, president and general manager of the Los Angeles Times, and was adopted by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

SHIP WRECKED IN BATTLE

Munition Vessel Sinks Submarine Off Coast of England.

LONDON, June 10.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press).—How a submarine which destroyed a munition ship was itself wrecked by the explosion is related in a British Admiralty statement.

The ship was torpedoed without warning by the U-boat, which then rose to the surface and opened fire with her guns. The German's second round exploded in the ammunition hold.

So terrific was the explosion that followed that the submarine was almost demolished by the concussion. Her gun was lifted and flung sideways, her side was torn out and she foundered almost as quickly as the steamer.

A rescued member of the munition ship's crew thus described his experience:

"Almost immediately after the submarine's second round we were all enveloped in black clouds. We heard rushing, roaring, gurgling noises. Something gave our boat an ugly twist and threw me overboard. When I came up I fouled a blanket or tarpaulin with my head and right hand and it seemed a long time before I could get clear. Even then everything was still in darkness. Then the air gradually became clear, and, seeing a boat, I struck out for it and was hauled aboard."

Rebels Forced to Work.

JUAREZ, Mexico, June 27.—Instead of executing them or placing them in prison, General Francisco Murguía has adopted a new plan of dealing with revolutionists who have been fighting against the government forces. Except in the case of responsible leaders, General Murguía has been putting the captured revolutionists to work on farms in Northern Mexico, where they are to be kept harvesting the large crops this year. A number of revolutionists from the southern states were sent north recently for this purpose.

MEN IN VARIOUS WALKS OF LIFE NOW BIG PART IN WORK OF WINNING WAR TO MAKE WORLD SAFE

Captain Flarello H. Ja Guardda, of American Flying Corps, Leads Boys in Wonderful Italian Victory Over Austrians on Piave—Howard Berry, Once Noted Football Captain, Now Lieutenant.



Inventor of the Browning Gun and Mr. Burton Winchester Expert.

Committee on Public Information from Underwood & Underwood N.Y.

His Eminence Cardinal Bourne, Catholic Archbishop of Westminster.

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