

The Stage



Scene from "The Only Girl" at the Alcazar

BY LEONE CASS BAER.

FROM present indications it would seem that Bert Levy's long cherished dream of building and conducting a children's theater in New York is reaching consummation and will be in actual operation next season. Bert Levy, who is a cartoonist and actor, and who has written several vaudeville sketches, includes in his plan not only the giving of plays for children, but the training of children for these performances. He announces that "kiddie plays" of fairy love and others of a poetic nature will be sought after. The work which will entail much detail will, however, not interfere with Mr. Levy's appearance next season in the Hippodrome performance. Mr. Levy intends taking in charge a number of child artists to be taken care of entirely during the period of training and they will be accompanied by Mrs. Levy. In such cases where parents are unable to afford it, there will be no charge whatever. It is intended to give performances late in the afternoon after the public schools are dismissed and there will probably be additional short performances in the evenings when adults may accompany children patrons.

Within the past few months Mr. Levy has interested a number of wealthy persons not only in New York but in Philadelphia and Baltimore. While some were skeptical as to the feasibility of the idea there are a dozen who have promised financial support, the ultimate plan being to have one hundred subscribers. About \$50,000 will be needed to start the children's theater movement, and as soon as \$20,000 is pledged Mr. Levy has the promise of an additional \$30,000. He will subscribe \$5,000 himself. His many children's shows gave the artist the basis of his present idea. Mr. Levy has taken in association with him Jack Goldberg who has had experience in handling children performers.

Of interest to all of us out here on this coast, where we sometimes seem so far away from everything, is the suggestion that possibly many shows and vaudeville acts will come out here next season because of exorbitant hotel bills on tour.

Editorially Variety says that the living expenses have led the season before the present problems of their bookings for next season. Their experiences during the season past with hotels and railroads have led them to a serious thought if the high cost of everything is to continue into 1920.

Vaudeville acts returning from long trips report scant savings on the season. While the influenza period had its effect and that is admitted, artists estimate their actual living expenses to substantiate their statements.

Ensemble acts appear to have been the hardest hit. One act on the Orpheum circuit, carrying 13 people, the same number in the season before, says that the hotel bill increased from its average of \$250 weekly for the group in 17-18, to \$600 a week last season. This act worked a week last season. This act worked a week last season. This act worked a week last season.

The hotel rates and cost of food have far ahead of the complaints against the excessive transportation. The high hotel expense seems prevalent all over the country, while the railroading depends upon jumps or routing, particularly in the west. Artists who check up their accounts say that \$10 a day in any good hotel is the minimum and that is when they are able to obtain a room at \$5. The latter is an infrequent occurrence, they say and \$8 is the lowest charge, single, that can be secured for a hotel room, which, with the cost of three meals or even two runs the total day's expense beyond \$10, nearer \$15, if not more.

The expense of traveling is said to be entering into the consideration of many artists like vaudeville routes for next season.

The Hells is dark this week, but on July 24-25-26 "Chin Chin" the musical play arrives, produced by Charles Dillingham's only company in its entirety with no modifications. Follows "Lombardi Limited" for the week of July 27, and in August Henry Miller comes in a play followed by his star Ruth Chatterton in another production.

The Alcazar opens tomorrow morning in "The Only Girl," in which Edna Murray appeared here, and which is one of the smartest and most delightful of musical plays. It has besides attractive music, a capital story which is well told as to dialogue and situations and constantly interesting. Mabel Wilber will sing the title role, with Henry Coote cast as the play-writing hero who did not intend to marry, until the only girl he had seen change his views. The entire company will appear in the production.

For a special summer treat, Alexander Pantages has booked for the week commencing with tomorrow's matinee, the famous Kelly Field Players, the only act of the sort authorized by the war department to appear in vaudeville.

The 12 youths who kept thousands of recruits happy at the great Texas cantonment during the war will reign supreme at the Pantages for a full seven-day engagement. They present pretty nearly everything that vaude-



Jewell La Vette At Lyric

ville knows, set together with new material and their engagement seems an assured success. The Four Rennees in dances from all parts of the world will provide the special feature on a programme budding with promise. For the following week Alexander Pantages presents the famous Sangers Midgates, one of the sensational acts in vaudeville.

Loa Durbylle, woman shadowgraphist, will present her novelty act as the headline on the Strand theater's new vaudeville bill opening tomorrow. "Pretty Smooth," hailed as one of the biggest crook photodramas of the year, with vivacious Priscilla Dean as its star, is the film feature.

'CHIN-CHIN' COMING TO HELLOG
Charles Dillingham's Stupendous Production Riot of Color.

Not for years has there been such a riot of artistically harmonized, faultlessly blended color upon any stage as in Charles Dillingham's stupendous production of "Chin Chin" coming to the Hippodrome theater for three nights, beginning Thursday, July 24, with a special matinee Saturday.

A flash of burnt orange trailing off into crimson, and we have a tea shop in Pekin. A splendor of apple-green, bronze-green, dull blues and bright blues, and a Chinese bazaar filled with quaint toys and curious idol images swings into view. A shimmer of moonlight on porcelain walls and among cherry branches at bloom-time, and a faint and rippling of pink and azure and violet—the dye-pot ran out. Flaunting vermillions, lurid yellows, vitreous greens, great splashes of purple, subtle lengths and ripples of pink and azure and violet—an iridescence, a play of pigments that astound the eye.

The vibrations of sound, too, are no less vivid. The tinkle of bells, the blare of horns, the fanfare of trumpets, the bravura of the orchestra, the melody of the singing voice. Sounds musical and sounds unmusical, rhythmic sounds and sounds that confuse the ear: sounds sweet, dulcet, silver-toned, symphonious, and sounds harsh, croaking, discordant—the whole marching, rattling, syncopating as such sounds will, a musical babel of humor and delight.

MILITARY ACT AT PANTAGES
Kelly Field Players Present Entire Vaudeville Programme.

Twelve men, forming the only official military act in vaudeville authorized by the war department and known as the Kelly Field Players, late of the great Texas cantonment, will be featured at Pantages for the week commencing with tomorrow's matinee. The Kelly Field Players present an



Spanish Goldin's at the Hippodrome

pels recognition as an actress, and the young man who is playwright of the vehicle in which she scores success. A classical dance repertoire with interlarded vocal selections between the numbers, will be the offering of Monsieur Bolla and company, in which Twentieth Shirley, danseuse, is featured and in which Miss Maria Everts is the soprano. The work of this aggregation of artists is said to be decidedly novel. A sensational vaudeville novelty, in which part of the entertainment which requires the use of electrical equipment, is monopolized by the performers under United States patent, will be provided by the Spanish Goldin's, two attractive girls and a man. Juggling, spinning, dancing and high diving are the features of the entertainment. Jones and Johnson, who declare themselves a chocolate drop and a stick of licorice, come with the reputation of being really funny. Jones is said to possess the ability to make laughs come without moving a muscle or uttering a word. Johnson is credited with being not only a splendid comedian but also a superb singer and dancer.

Talbert and Fisher present an excellent novelty, which is entitled "eccentricities of comedy."

OPERA SCENE LAID IN PARIS
"A Round of Pleasure" Opens at the Lyric Today.

If Larry Keating and Dan Flood had to pay real money to get Mike and Ike out of jail every time these actor persons get in, a mint would be working overtime to supply the "kale." Next week they will be carted off to the pen at least 12 times. The Lyric theater's offering for the present week ends with the leading men, Mike and Ike, on their way to prison.

The comic opera of light variety that opens at the Lyric today sports the name of "A Round of Pleasure." It starts in Paris, which is a mighty good place for a fellow to go on a round of pleasure if he doesn't care what sort of a round he takes. Americans there are weeping because they can't find a New York newspaper; they want something that will print real stories on the first page. The newspapers of Europe form one of the many things that is the matter with the countries over there.

The love interest in the round of joy consists in Lord Clumphy's efforts to capture an American heiress. There are all sorts of strange incidents. Then there's a cabaret scene that's a scream. Plenty of music and dancing help along.

"DREAMY EYES" SEEN AT OAKS
Armstrong Folly Company Presents Pleasing Musical Comedy.

It was the girl with the dreamy eyes who greeted her father at 17 years of age after the parent had been away from his daughter for 15 years that caused consternation in one family. The whole family is represented in the Armstrong Folly company, playing "Dreamy Eyes" at the Oaks Amusement park throughout the week beginning today.

"Dreamy Eyes" has a novel plot that introduces unusual comedy situations in which the big Armstrong cast finds room for the expression of its varied talents. There is a riotous family mix-

up that is only solved by the complete confession by all sides when the father of the girl with the dreamy eyes hires a detective who straightens out the situation. The detective proves to be the brother of his employer's wife, although he first mistakes her for the new maid in the household where he works.

Added to the interest of the plot and its action, set amid beautiful scenery and wonderfully costumed, is a musical and a chorus of girls.

(Continued on Page 3.)

STAND
THEATER
VAUDEVILLE & PHOTOPLAYS

Starts Today
Dazzling
Priscilla Dean

"PRETTY SMOOTH" AT STRAND
Priscilla Dean Appears in New Crook Photoplay This Week.

Bayard Veiller, author of "Within the Law" and "The Thirteenth Chair," is responsible for Priscilla Dean's new crook photoplay, "Pretty Smooth," which opens today at the Strand theater as the headline attraction on the "photoville" programme.

"Pretty Smooth," written especially for the sparkling and vivacious Priscilla Dean, is a blackface star who recently withdrew from minstrel ranks to appear as a feature in his own right. He keeps his audiences laughing with his droll patter and his entertaining songs.

Harris and Nolan are pretty maids at a piano, their voices blending happily in their several songs and their comedy bits of the sort that stir a laugh in every corner of the theater.

With a novel entry on a motor truck, Monroe and Grant appear as jolly comedians until the act is fairly under way, when they develop startling acrobatic feats which prove thrilling.

Sam and Ada Beverly are diversified entertainers whose collection of character songs are particularly pleasing. Their harmony work has a particular appeal to music lovers.

"The Tiger's Trail" in the latest episode presents Ruth Roland in one of her most exciting roles.

The Theater Septette, one of the most attractive acts in vaudeville, closes its engagement with the continuous performance today from 1:30 to 11 o'clock.

CHINESE MAGICIAN STARTLES
Art of Illusion to Be Demonstrated at the Hippodrome.

That a person cannot believe his own eyes is a charge that has been made any number of times and resented by most. If anyone believes he can trust his eyes not to deceive him, it is certain he will have some suspicion as to their good faith with him after seeing Toy Ling Foo and company, the head-line attraction at the Hippodrome this afternoon. Garbed in elaborate Chinese costumes and amidst gorgeous oriental settings, Toy Ling Foo and his two assistants give what is promised to be a remarkable exhibition in those arts of magic which involve illusion. Unexplainable transfers from one receptacle to another; appearances of living objects from out of the air, mystical disappearances, and all such things as these comprise what is declared to be a most fascinating few minutes of entertainment.

The motion picture offering beginning this Sunday is a picturization of one of Gouverneur Morris' most popular stories, "When My Ship Comes In," with Hazel Grey in the leading role. The story involves the lives of two young people, one a sea captain's daughter, who by force of her own ability com-

illa, is said to be the greatest crook picture ever made by Universal, and that concern has produced some corkers, including "Come Through" and "The Exquisite Thief."

This picture unfolds an amazing romance of crime and love, with Miss Dean in the role of Gerlie Jones, one of the most elusive girl crooks in the west. Gerlie's adroit way of impersonating a French maid enables her to obtain employment in fashionable and wealthy homes. Then the rest is easy.

Francis McDonald has the part of Jimmy Hartigan, known as the dean of all safe-robbers. Jimmy's methods are artistic in the extreme. Jimmy's work is a thing to be admired and Gerlie sees it with the stage set by herself. Then come the police.

Rollin Sturgeon, who has directed so many unusual productions, made "Pretty Smooth" and trade critics are lavish in their praise of his picture.

Loa Durbylle, only woman shadowgraphist in the world, who has a big time novelty act, is the vaudeville headliner.

Other numbers will include Wang, the Chinese musician; Lavigne Sisters, in songs, dances and changes, and Helen Yoe and Eddie Coe, in a symphonic sensation they call "A Few Hard Bumps."

Current Events of the world's news and Literary Digest's "Topics of the Day" are other film features.

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NEXT WEEK: "THE FORTUNE TELLER"

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VAUDEVILLE & PHOTOPLAYS