

Film News

Ethel Clayton in
'Crooked Streets'
*Liberty*Douglas
Fairbanks
in the
'Mollycoddle'
*Circle*Harry Houdini
in *'Terror Island'*
*Star*Anna Q. Nilsson
in *'The Fighting Chance'*
Columbia

Photo Plays

LIBERTY—Ethel Clayton's new picture, "Crooked Streets," is the feature attraction at the Liberty for the early part of this week. It is a distinct departure from the series of domestic dramas with which Miss Clayton has been entertaining local picture audiences recently. Her latest vehicle is an exciting adventure-romance, with the scenes laid in the native and European quarters of Shanghai.

The star has the role of Gail Ellis, a resourceful young American girl, who becomes secretary to a Professor Griswold on a trip to China, professedly made in the interest of historic antiquities. In Shanghai, Gail, adventuring on her own account, is taken by a treacherous "ricksha man" to an iniquitous opium den and with difficulty rescued by a handsome Englishman, Rupert O'Dare. Startling disclosures, revealing the real identity of Gail's employer, follow.

"Crooked Streets" was adapted from an original story by Samuel Merwin and is thoroughly good entertainment. Miss Clayton is supported by a good cast, including Jack Holt and Clyde Fillmore. Paul Powell directed and the picture is a Paramount Artcraft.

COLUMBIA—The man who composed the popular song about the different varieties of kisses omitted one of the most novel kinds of all. But the photo-play producers who adapted Robert W. Chambers' "The Fighting Chance," didn't. Those who read this story in book form will remember that one of the biggest and most attractive scenes in where Stephen, the hero, and Sylvia Landis dive together into a swimming pool and their lips meet in a fond goodbye underneath the water. The scene was only described in the book. It is shown in all its glory in the picture at the Columbia this week.

"I hope we haven't started an epidemic of submarine kissing among the young folks," laughed Anna Q. Nilsson, who plays Sylvia in the picture, after the scene was filmed. "If the girls and boys at the beach are influenced to try this underwater love making, the chaperons will simply have to keep their eyes open below the surface."

PEOPLES—At the Peoples this week theatergoers of this city will have an opportunity to see the latest Universal-Jewel production, "Under Crimson Skies," featuring Elmo Lincoln. "Under Crimson Skies" is an original story by J. G. Hawks and is reminiscent of the pirate tales of the sea by Jack London and Robert Louis Stevenson. It tells the story of a Southern Cross, master of the Southern Cross, who is sailing to a South American port with a cargo of pianos. Clayton, owner of the cargo, with his wife and daughter, are the only passengers aboard. Clayton is in reality a gun runner, taking a shipment of rifles and ammunition to be used in a rebellion, and the firearms are stored in the empty piano cases. A second mate and part of the crew are in his employ.

During a storm at sea Captain Barstow discovers that he is carrying contraband, and when he threatens to put Clayton in irons the crew mutinies. He is forced to shoot the ringleader, and Clayton's wife, who arrives on the boat too late to witness the mutiny, believes Barstow's action sheer brutality.

When the Southern Cross docks at the Latin port, Clayton and the crew accuse the captain of attempted manslaughter on the high seas, and he is tried by a marine court martial. Keep his silent account of his love for Clayton's wife and baby, he is sentenced to prison, from which he escapes and becomes master of

a band of beach-combers after vanquishing the leader of the lawless mob.

How the revolution starts and threatens to engulf the conspirators, how Barstow and his gang of beach-combers come to the aid of the besieged Americans at the consulate, and how he regains his liberty and reputation are told in a series of interesting scenes.

STAR—Houdini, the famous illusionist and self-liberator, in a thrilling screen melodrama, "Terror Island," is the attraction at the Star for the new week. To save some sunken treasures of ships that have been sent to the bottom forms one motive of the tale. But there is, in addition, a skull shaped pearl upon which a man's life depends; a lovely girl, kidnapped by her villainous relatives; a submarine built on a startling plan; South Sea island adventures—enough thrills, it is declared, to make the ordinary adventure picture seem tame in comparison.

Above all, Houdini himself in underwater stunts that draw upon his exceptional powers to the last degree in the outstanding feature of the picture. He escapes from a closely bound safe while under water, fights a smashing battle with a diver on the bed of the ocean, and performs other hair-raising feats that are declared to surpass anything he has ever done on the stage.

MAJESTIC—"The Terror" is the title of the latest Tom Mix thriller, which Manager Frank Lacey is showing at the Majestic for the new week. This will prove one of the most stirring pictures with the rugged West as

its background in which Tom Mix has yet appeared, if advance reports count for anything.

Briefly, the story concerns the efforts of "No Limit" Carson, a United States deputy marshal, to run down leakages of gold from the Sonora Gold & Copper Mining company. Following an investigation, Carson suspects Sheriff Canby and Con Norton, owner of the Odeon dance hall, who are using as their tools Pay La Cross, a dancehall girl, and Phil Harland, her lover, who is confidential secretary to the president of the mining company. It is only after a series of thrilling escapades that Carson brings the culprits to justice and wins the love of the sister of Harland, one of the suspects, who is found to be innocent.

On the same bill is a Carter De Haven comedy and the Fathe weekly.

CIRCLE—Douglas Fairbanks, considered by many the most popular player on the screen, will be at the Circle today and tomorrow in the third of his United Artists productions, "The Mollycoddle," which is an adaptation by Tom Geraghty of Harold MacGrath's story. The picture patrons know what to expect from a Fairbanks offering.

They know that the star will be the center of unbounded action which carries thrill after thrill. They will know that he is in there taking care of himself as well as the girl who comes into his life. "The Mollycoddle" is ideal material since it enables him to assert his vivid personality in the most ingratiating manner possible.

The star appears as an American who is called a mollycoddle during his sojourn in England where he spent most of his youth. His environment grates on him to such an extent that he comes back to his native land. He is not much of a success at first but in the end he forges to the front and fights like a true

Scene from *'Under Crimson Skies'* Peoples

THE PRESS SHEET SAYS:-

Howard Hickman, husband and director of most of Benjie Barrisole's features, has become director for Ben Hampton. His first story will be "The Killer," by Stewart Edward White.

Mildred Davis is going back to school! That is, she is going to take up the study of French music and dancing again. This ambitious undertaking, however, is not going to interfere with her studio work.

Another playwright of the stage, Cleves Kinkaid, author of the Harvard prize play, "Common Clay," has yielded to the seductions of the movie money-fount.

After a few days' fishing off the California coast, Lloyd Ingraham, director of the Carter de Havens in "Twin Beds," declares that hereafter the camera reel shall be preferred to the fishing reel, and that he shall do his baiting with the megaphone instead of the hook. Who's to be the poor fish?

"Lavender and Old Lace" will be the first of several of Myrtle Reed's novels to be filmed by the Renco company, just formed for the purpose.

It has come to Benjie Love's knowledge that a man has been masquerading in the northern part of the state as her brother; that on these grounds he has been liberally entertained and taken into the intimacy of more than one family. Miss Love has no brother and sends out a warning against the impostor.

In "Object, Matrimony," Henry King has created for Blanche Sweet a character the like of which she has never played before. As one critic puts it, "Object, Matrimony," reveals a hitherto unsuspected Blanche Sweet, a sort of devilish combination of Constance Talmadge and Dorothy Gish.

For early filming Reelart has secured these stage plays: "In the Bishop's Carriage," by Miriam Michelson; "Dances and Drakes," by Elmer Harris; and "The Snob," by W. J. Neidig.

The action takes the star through the most red-blooded scene of his screen career. He fights with the villain on the top of a mountain cliff and before he emerges the victor, the both of them have tumbled down the slide, into the water below. His support includes a newcomer in Ruth Renick, who graces the opposite role; Betty Bouton and Wallace Beery.

Screen Stars
On Way to
Europe

NEW YORK, Aug. 21.—Film stars were much in evidence among the cabin passengers on the *Imperator* when the giant Cunarder finally found tidal conditions favorable and started for Cherbourg and Southampton.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pickford, the latter Olive Thomas, sailed, as Jack said, on their first honeymoon trip. They will visit England and France and be gone about six weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Schenck, the latter Norma Talmadge of the screen, and her sister, Constance Talmadge, sailed to tour through France, Switzerland and Italy. Dorothy Gish sailed with her mother, Mrs. Mary R. Gish, also on a vacation trip. Because of this exodus of film stars there were hundreds of friends and admirers at the ship.

Colonel Harry Cutler of New York and Providence, chairman of the Jewish Welfare board, and a member of Secretary Baker's war memorial commission, as well as personal representative of a similar commission of Massachusetts, sailed together with his personal physician, Dr. W. F. Flanagan of St. Joseph hospital, Providence, R. I. Colonel Cutler said the purpose of the American commission is to consolidate in France the graves of the Americans who fell there and who are buried in nearly 700 cemeteries, into three or four great cemeteries.

Sixty per cent of the relatives of officers and men killed in France have, in answer to a questionnaire sent out by Secretary Baker, asked that the bodies be sent home. This will mean that 50,000 bodies will be brought back to the United States, according to Colonel Cutler. Ten per cent of the questionnaires were unanswered and 30 per cent asked that their dead be allowed to rest in France. It is for these 25,000 bodies that cemeteries will be created.

Belasco to Present
'Call the Doctor'

For the first time since the early days of his association with Charles Frohman, David Belasco is returning to the Empire theatre, New York, on August 31 to present an individual production.

"Call the Doctor," a comedy by Jean Archibald, will be the offering and the play has been in rehearsal at that playhouse under Belasco's direction for several weeks. The Empire theatre holds a tender place in the memories of Mr. Belasco, as it was at this house that he presented his first New York production, "The Girl I Left Behind Me." The

Looks Doleful for the "Sticks"
One-Night Stands to Suffer

By James L. Kilgallen

CHICAGO, Aug. 21.—It's going to be a tough year on the one night stands. In a few weeks many brightly chorus girls, and for that matter, performers with speaking parts with Broadway aspirations, will be shunted back to Chicago or New York from some burg like Goshen or Great Neck to hear a speech from the manager who has executed a Steve Brodie. His talk will be something like this:

"Well, friends, we're down. The show's gone up. Only enough dough left to pay off. Step right up. No chance to get by with the railroads putting a run at our heads. Sorry, Phil, you were going big. And you, Gladys, guess you'll have to go back to the 'one arm'."

The authority for these deductions is E. J. Armstrong, Chicago's first theatrical booking agent, familiarly known in the profession as "Armie," who his friends say knows the stage "from screw eye to gridiron." He has for 40 years an actor and was the original impresario of the "turkey shows," which is another term for one night stands.

RATES GO UP

With transportation rates advanced 30 per cent, exclusive of war tax, and Pullman's up 50 per cent, plus war tax, the one night stands can't live according to "Armie." These shows have been putting the price up, but the limit has been reached. A year ago it was top price, now they are asking \$1.50, \$2 and \$2.50.

But farmers aren't "rubes" any more. They have cars and get about, so when the turkey shows come along they give the struggling performers the "raspberry," so to speak.

For the last two weeks one night shows have been hesitatingly venturing forth, the "stickies." Those playing from Dubuque, Iowa, to Medicine Bow, have nicknamed it "Death Trail" because chance of life is so meagre. The actors are fixing their schedules so they won't have to take Pullman sleepers. Others are sitting up nights in day coaches. Instead of eating in the diner they have their bananas and cake lunches in the coach.

The shows started leaving Chicago the first of the month, after weeks of rehearsal in the E. of P. hall here. Between 15 and 20 shows leave Chicago every season and between 150 and 200

from New York. The season lasts 42 weeks—sometimes. A turkey show carries from 25 to 35 persons.

"Why managers have to use hanging scenery instead of sets," exclaims "Armie."

This means that "The Old Homestead" and the "sawmill," where the villain tries to kill Bessie, the sewing machine girl, will be painted contraptions that can be folded up in the smallest possible space; in fact, the Illinois circuit, a short jump out of Chicago, is now being called "the suitcase route" because the scenery is so light it can be carried in a grip.

"To add to the woes of the manager, what little scenery is carried has to be retouched. Wardrobes, such as they are, have to be cleaned. "Think what it means," said "Armie." "To have to pay \$200 apiece for train dresses for a dozen or 15 girls. It costs from \$1000 to \$10,000 to send out one of these small musical shows and the upkeep is from \$300 to \$400 a day."

"A year ago you could get a good chorus girl for \$25 a week for one night stands. Now they want \$40; show girls \$50. Salaries of the performers have gone up 25 to 35 per cent."

"How can the managers get by? They can't. One by one they'll be coming back with stranded plays. Say they play to 1500 on the week at 30 cents to \$2.50 a ticket, how are they going to meet expenses?"

ALL RIGHT FOR "TABS"

The "tab" music shows, which play vaudeville and picture houses in bigger towns can stand it. They play two or three weeks in a city as "stocks" and their fumps are fewer. Burlesque shows have it pretty good. They play cities and jump only once a week. They can afford to ride in Pullmans."

The veteran booking man's pessimistic viewpoint was strangely in line with a sign he had placed over his desk.

"Our business has been established since 1902. We have been pleasing and displacing people ever since. We have lost money and made money. We have been 'cussed' and discussed, knocked about, talked about, lied about, held up, robbed, etc. To the end of the chapter the only reason we are staying in the business is to find out what the hell will happen next."

"That's just how I feel about these one-night shows," said "Armie" as the interviewers waved him an au revoir.

New One for Mitzle

Henry W. Savage announces that Mitzle Hajo's new musical play to be presented this season is entitled "Lady Billy." The libretto is by Zeeda Sears, and the music by Harold Levey.

Women Plan
Their Own
Theatre

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21.—Three women, incorporated under the name of the Washington Theatre company, purpose giving the capital what it long has needed but never has had—an up-to-date playhouse devoted to the spoken drama.

The women are Katharine S. Brown, one time owner and manager of the Parish Players of Chicago, who is president of the company; Mrs. Glenn Smith Tinnin of Washington, vice president and treasurer, and Mrs. Mary H. Kinkaid, a newspaper woman and playwright, secretary.

The site has been chosen and plans have been drawn for two theatres, especially for children, and a concert hall, under one roof. They are to represent the best in theatre art and to be equipped with every modern device which contributes to the illusion of the world of makebelieve.

Since all interests of the country focus in the national capital, Washington has been selected as the logical place in which to establish a center where the best in the American theatre can be developed. The Washington Theatre company is to have its own producing organization, but also will be used for presenting plays from other sources.

Pending the completion of the building the company will present plays through existing channels. The program already includes three children's plays and a musical review, "Such Things Are," which has been tried out for a year on tour and will go to New York from Washington. The incorporators have had wide professional experience.

Once Started, Rises
Fast in Movies

From selling bananas as a coster-monger in London's unsavory Limehouse to a featured role in a big photoplay production in five months is the phenomenal start toward screen stardom of Charles Gordon, regarded as one of the screen discoveries of the year. Gordon, who comes of an old Irish family, tried to break into the theatrical hall of fame in London. He failed and rather than "kiss" checks or call on his family for aid, he sold bananas in the Limehouse district until he got enough money to come to America in the steerage. He is to play the role of "Clarence" in Mark Twain's "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court."

ROBERT W.
CHAMBERS'S
GREATEST NOVELThe
Fighting
ChanceTODAY AND
ALL WEEK

A fascinating story of New York's Smart Set—from boudoir to ballroom—from club to cabaret—beautifully gowned women and life—and love. The cast includes Anna Q. Nilsson, Conrad Nagel and Dorothy Davenport (Mrs. Wallace Reid). The Comedy is "Sheriff Nell's Comeback" For Fillers, Pathe Review, Chester Outing

UMBRA
ICE-COOLED
DIRECTION OF JENSEN & VON HERBERG