

One Producer Who Defends "Stars"

DURING the past few months a great deal of discussion has arisen over the so-called star system. Some writers have made bold to say that stars are about to pass into sealed oblivion with the coming of the government control of the railroads. Others are of the opinion that stars are an indispensable and permanent fixture of the screen industry.

Robert Brunton, owner of the Brunton studios in Los Angeles, is making a thorough test of both the star and all-star systems. He says: "There will always be stars. The most short-sighted producer cannot but see the necessity of them. To eliminate these darlings of the public it would be necessary to suppress personality, beauty and talent itself. Once a player attracts strong popular favor, it follows inevitably that he or she be featured until the tide of popular opinion turns."

"In every city and community of this nation there is some figure that dominates, someone who stands preeminent by reason of superior talents or unceasing effort. No amount of legislation or regulation can prevent Jim Jones from becoming the best lawyer in Cleveland, providing he has the brains and initiative to gain such an ascendancy. By the same token, the actor, being better equipped for their line of work than others, and more earnest in the pursuit of it, are bound to tip the scales of popularity and attain recognition as stars."

AUTHORS DEMAND STARS
"Authors themselves make the star indispensable. Every well written play has a dominant figure, someone who succeeds in reaching an objective against the will of the audience, and taking this part naturally carries the sympathy of the audience, receives the applause. It would be a trying and unethical task to reduce every actor to play to an equal basis. Some character must prevail—that is a primary rule of drama."

"The public itself demands stars. People delight in according recognition to individual worth. If Bill Henry does some particularly striking work in an obscure role the barometer of public favor will assuredly push it upward. Should he display star qualities, star he will become. There is an erroneous belief to the point that producers 'make' stars. No greater fallacy exists. The public in their own attainments make them. Producers merely gauge the most propitious moment to launch a climbing actor with star credit."

"One fact alone is sufficient to preserve the star system—it is a commercial success. A production bolstered with the reputation of an established star rarely fails, even though the scenario be bad and the direction worse. On the other hand, the so-called star feature is a hazardous investment. The care and expense it may bring a fortune and it may fail entirely."

ACTORS TO FIT PARTS
"Consideration of the story and direction are important points in favor of all-star production. In this type of picture actors are selected to fit the parts—parts are not shrunk or expanded to fit the actors. Although any member of the cast may be worthy of star recognition no one receives credit over the other—a higher standard is kept with the democratic trend of world events."

Parks and Resorts

THE OAKS—Another week of fun at the Oaks is in store for the children of Portland. For Cullen's Dog and Pony show will stay as long as the children demand that they shall—at least, till Manager Cardway closes the gates of the Williamette river park for the 1920 season. It is estimated that several thousand young people and old folk enjoyed the performances of the dogs and the ponies last week, opening last Sunday's matinee with a crowd which packed the park. The shows are free and are given in the open air in front of the bandstand.

Following the performances of Cullen's animal show, Campbell's American Concert band will be heard in two more especially arranged and interesting programs, including compositions of the highest class from the best composers. Several selections will be played at "request numbers." Miss Dorothy Daphne Lewis, Portland's noted mezzo-soprano, and Miss Irene Altman, whose clear soprano has placed her high on the road to musical fame, will appear as usual today at both concerts, 3 and 9 o'clock. Director Campbell is arranging another big musical program for next Thursday night, and probably will put on another "opera night" before the close of the season, due to the many requests he received following the first "opera night" last Thursday, which proved one of the big programs of the season.

COLUMBIA BEACH—To the most beautiful girl in the most attractive bathing suit will be awarded a prize at Columbia beach today. The competition will be open to all.

One of the new amusement concessions is the big Ferris wheel put in operation for the first time last Sunday. This marked another step in the enlargement of the amusement field, which now includes the merry-go-round, the speedboat, the hydro-merrie, the miniature railway and the hydroplane. Dancing every Sunday afternoon and evening is one of the big attractions at the park.

Free accommodations for the preparation of a meal are used each week by hundreds of persons on camping trips or holding an evening picnic.

Washington state Elks took over the park for one day as part of their annual convention entertainment feature.

BOAT "Bluebird"

Invites the public to attend the Moonlight Excursion Every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday Evening

BEST MUSIC IN TOWN

PERCY CAMPBELL'S American band, an attraction at The Oaks this season, and one that is growing in popularity. Especially arranged programs, many of them the selections of the public, have been a feature of the engagement.



West Coast Is "Coming Back" Broadway Stars Well Received

Notwithstanding that the recently ordered increase in passenger and Pullman railroad rates is going to hit the traveling theatrical companies a stiff uppercut, which it is feared in some quarters may prohibit the big road shows from playing West Coast time, there is hope in the situation, according to advance men making Portland in this pre-fall season.

It seems, according to them, that Western theatrical managers have been particularly insistent of late that New York producers send out their good shows, and Broadway has naturally been holding back, being in doubt as to the exact status of conditions on the coast here. The few good things that have come west, however, the last two or three months, have been wonderfully received, and this fact, according to the show men on the road, is going to go a long way toward convincing New York managers that Western show fields are ripe for harvesting by Eastern stars and successes.

Reports from the South, for instance, indicate that the tour of Miss Jane Cowl in "Smilin' Through," due at the Hellog for an end of the week engagement, is proving unusually profitable, even though a \$1 top price is the rule.

The Selwyns, we are assured, sent Miss Cowl to the West coast on a "test tour." She was to serve as a pioneer for other stars who want to come west, but who have been fearful of the business that might be extended them, due to the cry back east that theatrical conditions in these parts were not averaging up to what the popularity of these stars in the East would draw at the box offices. As a pioneer, Miss Cowl has been highly successful, reaching her greatest height at the Curran theatre in San Francisco in a two weeks' engagement, netting \$45,162 gross on the two weeks. This is a new record for the Curran, and a mark somewhat phenomenal for a dramatic show.



A Glorious Romance of Love and High-Seas Adventure

Here is really big picture. A rousing, stirring, picture. A romantic picture. A story that sweeps you up out of your humdrum life and carries you off to sea and marvelous adventure of the kind that thrills you through and through. To fight with a strong, silent man against the perils of mutiny on the high seas—to fall in love with a beautiful woman and sacrifice liberty for her sake—to make a miraculous escape from the fetid dungeon of a southern republic and become master of a colony of wild beachcombers and conquer them by might of brain and fist and then—to save the one woman from a terrible fate in the midst of red revolution.

TRAILED BY THREE

The Red-Blooded Action Picture ("Trailed by Three" Shown in Afternoon Only)

NOW PLAYING

PEOPLES
DIRECTION OF JENSEN AND VON HERBERG

'Doug' Has New Girl From "Follies"

FLORENCE ZIEGFELD said last winter he would protect himself from the marauding motion pictures by forbidding film contracts for his performers. But even if the screen has come and taken a large percentage of the famous "Follies" girls, Ziegfeld changed his mind last week and agreed to permit Kathleen Ardelle to have a test made. It was no less a person than Mary Pickford who coaxed Mr. Ziegfeld to say "yes" and let Miss Kathleen have a chance.

Mary and Doug were guests of Mr. Ziegfeld at the "Follies," when Mary noticed the pretty little girl with dark curly hair.

"She would make a good lead for your next picture, Doug," said Mary, pointing to the slip of a girl who was all a-flutter because the two film celebrities were on the roof.

"Providing she photographs well," agreed Douglas.

It was arranged then and there the young woman should go to California and have a test made, and, if it comes out half as well as her sponsors expect, she will appear in the next Fairbanks picture.

'Bird of Paradise' Still Goes Strong

Richard Walton Tully has returned to New York after a three months' trip to California, where he divided his time between writing on his ranch at Sierra Madre and playing golf at Del Monte. Tully has already begun rehearsal of "The Bird of Paradise," his seemingly ever popular Hawaiian play, of which, in its tenth season, there will be three companies touring in this country. He will also shortly launch Guy Bates Post upon his fifth season in the successful dramatization of Katherine Cecil Thurston's novel, "The Masquerader." Tully then plans to sail for England in time to give the finishing touches to the three companies that will present "The Bird of Paradise" in Great Britain this season, following a year's run of the piece in London. Nor will Tully then have succumbed from "The Bird of Paradise," for his next task will be to supervise its premiere in Paris, which is scheduled for October or November, after which he will present the play in either Madrid or Rome, possibly both, during the winter.

Following the Portland engagement, Miss Cowl goes to Seattle, Tacoma, Butte and St. Paul prior to opening her annual fall engagement at the Cort theatre in Chicago. At Christmas time, Miss Cowl prepares to go to London to open in her present vehicle in mid-season.

Want American Cattle
Kingston, Jamaica, Aug. 21.—(U. P.)—The government here has under consideration establishment of a stock farm with 1000 head of cattle for the purpose of relieving the acute meat shortage. The cattle will probably be purchased in America.

Agnes Ayres' brother brought home a charming French war bride and now Agnes is a proud aunt.

Florence Tempest Finds Tempest in Her Married Life

After all, single blessedness is the life, take it from Florence Tempest, who, together with her sister, Marion Sunshine, is well known to vaudeville and musical comedy throughout the country. In substantiation of her views, Miss Tempest has brought suit in Chicago for divorce against Joseph E. Shea, on grounds of alleged desertion.

The complaint, filed through her attorney, Philip R. Davis, whom she met while singing at the cantonments at San Antonio and Houston, Tex., during the war, sets forth that she and Shea were married in Newark, August 15, 1915, and alleges that two months later he left her.

Miss Tempest has been seen in Portland on Orpheum time.

Old Indian Is Vaudeville Feature

Little Falls, Minn., Aug. 21.—Gabe-nah-gwen-wone, the Chippewa Indian, more generally known as John Smith or Wrinkle Meat, said to be more than 100 years old, featured a vaudeville program given here by seven members of the Chippewa tribe. The aged Indian, to the beat of tom toms, gave a series of native dances, and then, just to show that a mere matter of a hundred-odd years was no handicap, signalled the orchestra to strike up a jazz number, and treated his spectators to a bit of the heel and toe dancing of the old French voyageurs.

OAKS PARK

A MUSICAL TREAT
All This Week
Starting Today

Campbell's Concert Band

Daily 9 p. m. Matinee Sunday 3 p. m.
EVERY CONCERT COMPLETE
CHANGE OF PROGRAM

Special Added Attraction
Charming Dorothy Lewis
Attractive Irene Altman

IN
LATEST NEW YORK SONGS

GREAT SUCCESS
CULLIN'S DOG & PONY

CIRCUS

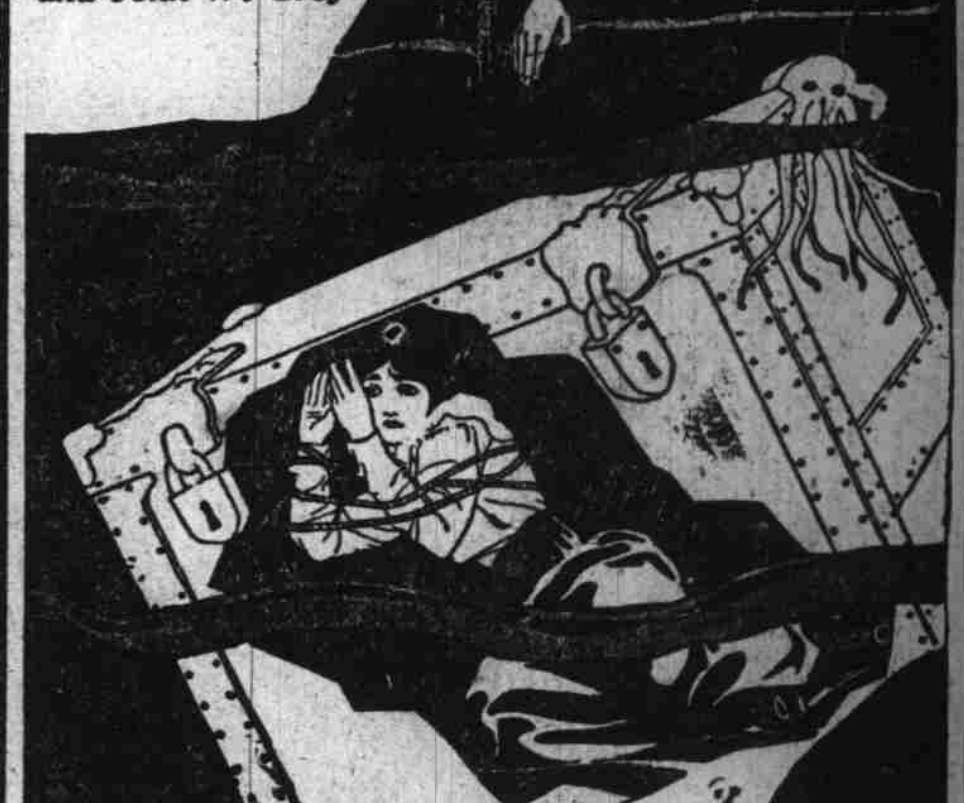
ALL THIS WEEK, 3 AND 9 P. M.
Do Not Fail to Bring the Children

Free Picnic Service. Take Cars First and Alder. Fare 6 Cents. Admission Free to 5 p. m. Except Sundays and Holidays.

HOUDINI IN 'TERROR ISLAND'

Battle and rescue beneath the waves. Strange rites on a barbarous isle. Submarine race to salvage sunken treasure. Love, villainy, mystery, sensational feats of daring and escape.—All in six smashing reels of blood-stirring melodrama, made marvellous by the genius of Houdini.

By Arthur B. Reeve and John W. Gray



Star NOW!
ALL WEEK

PLAYING NOW

Majestic

Direction of Jensen and Von Herberg

Presents

Tom Mix in The Terror

Another Mix masterpiece of dare devilry and thrills. A story of the wild life of early California—of bandits—dancehalls—women—and gold.

CARTER DE HAVEN

Comedy: "The Sure Thing" and Pathe News
Wurlitzer Concert Today at 1:30

