

WIDE RANGE OF PLAYS VIEWED

Resume of Theatrical Productions Is Given For 1929

By DEMING SEYMOUR (AP Feature Service Writer) NEW YORK (AP)—The year 1929 in the theatre had a distinctly better temper than the year which preceded it.

If it brought forth no new play of the dimensions of O'Neill's "Strange Interlude," dominant exhibit of 1928, it brought a wider range of good plays and a definite reaction from the slump, both in play writing and play-going, which made 1928 a dull year on the stage.

Seldom has there been such unanimity as that with which critics and playgoers ratified the Pulitzer committee's selection of Elmer Rice's "Street Scene" for the drama prize of the year, far above other American plays of its season it stood head and shoulders.

Yet had the award not been limited to American plays, "Street Scene" would have been a sturdy rival in "Journey's End," by R. C. Sheriff, indisputably the "great world war play of England. Because it deals simply with basic human emotions "Journey's End" may outlive, in the dramatic literature of war, that rather better heathen exhibit, "What Price Glory?" America's greatest war drama.

Perhaps the most hopeful development of the year was the appearance of two excellent American comedies, just at a time when critics were lamenting the apparent lack of native playwrights who could write effectively in the comic vein.

They were "June Moon," by Ring Lardner and George S. Kaufman, and "Bright Day," by Preston Sturges—the one a riotous lampoon aimed in general at the great American boob and in particular at the writers of our popular music, the other a sheer and trivial bit of fun exquisitely wrought.

Around the metaphysical notion of the relativity of time John L. Balderston, American newspaperman in London, wrote one of the most serious plays of the year, "Berkeley Square." The most active playwright of the year was Martin Flavin, with three plays—and by far the most notable was "The Criminal Code," which pictured penal conditions to point a moral without being preachy or maudlin.

Two plays unfamiliar with the art of acting did major roles notably: Harry Rosenthal, sometime leader of Broadway dance orchestras, as the piano pounder in "June Moon"; and Siegfried Rumana, lately a yodeler in a Yorkville beer garden, as the German lieutenant of Alexander Woodcock's "The Channel Road." But if some thought this indicated that acting was an art easily learned, they needed but to go up Broadway a block or two to see George M. Cohan making his own play "Gambling," one of the hits of the town by sheer dint of his fine portrayal of a gambler in an only so-so melodrama or down the street to see Arthur Byron give stature to the prison warden's role in "The Criminal Code."

In musical entertainment, the year offered, beyond the usual sumptuous run, a notable piece of intimate entertainment in "The Little Show."

A musical event, too, was the importation from London of Noel Coward's operette, "Bitter Sweet." Audiences came to praise this new evidence of the versatility of Coward and stayed to cheer Evelyn Laye, a blonde English girl who sang and acted his principal role in such fashion as to make herself the sweetheart of the town and the outstanding discovery of the year.

The best music of the year was Jerome Kern's score for "Sweet Adeline," in which he and Oscar Hammerstein II wrote a noteworthy successor to their own "Show Boat."

Of crime plays these was a flood, but few survived. The most notable was "Subway Express," an ingenious tale of murder on the underground rapid transit lines, which owed distinction to its vividness of setting.

Three events were conspicuous in the field of revivals. The return of William Gillette to play for the last time his memorable role in "Sherlock Holmes;" the reincarnation of the operettas of Victor Herbert and his contemporaries by Milton Aborn's repertory company; and the Shubert revival of John Strauss' "The Pied Piper." In the revival of Herbert's "Mademoiselle Modiste" Fritz Scheff, long absent from the New York stage, sang again the role of Pitt which she created in 1905.

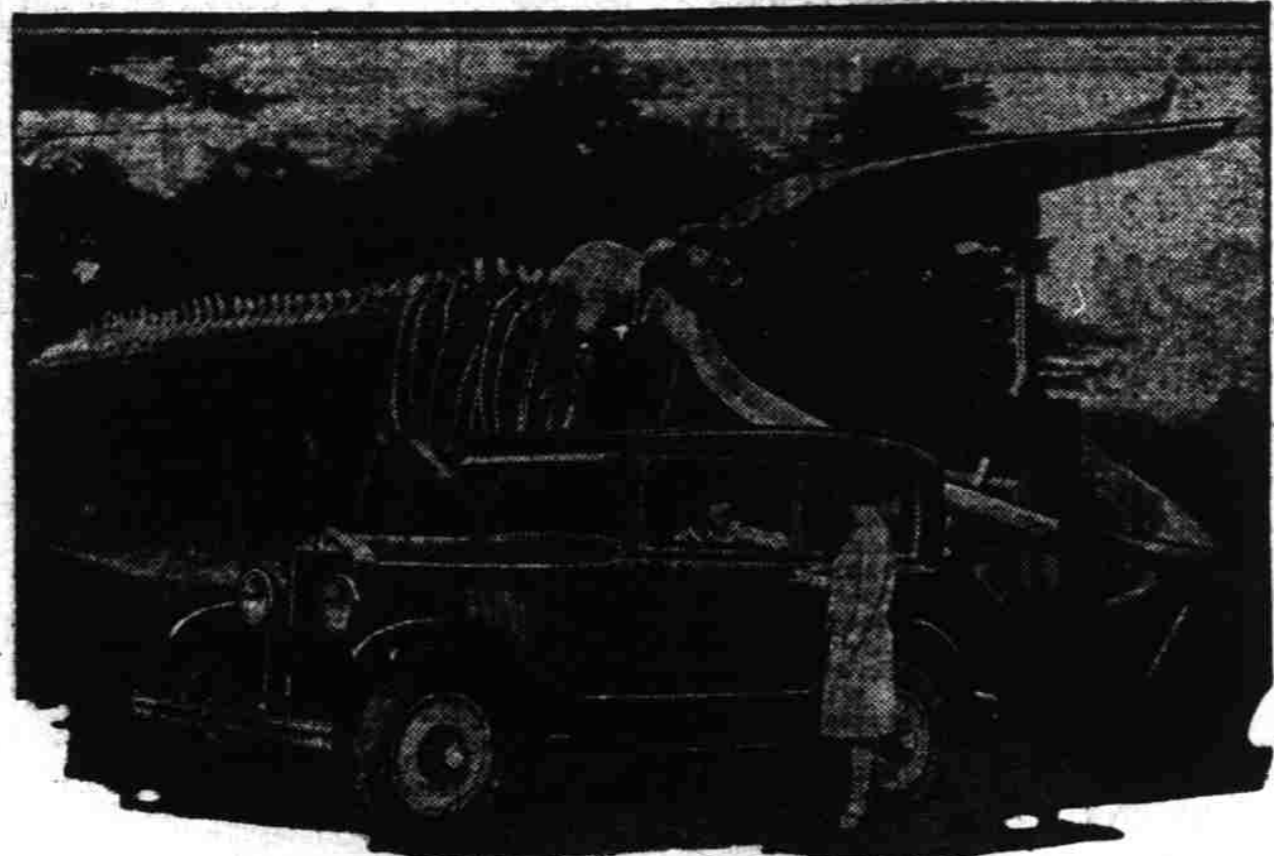
Outside New York "the road" continues to dwindle as a play market, but the Theater Guild continued its extensive cultivation of audiences throughout the country, with rather marked success.

This was the third year of the Guild's attempt to establish seasons in other cities. Debuting strong in Chicago, with 12,000 subscribers; Philadelphia with 10,500; Boston with 7,000; and Pittsburgh and Baltimore with 4,000 each, the Guild set out to build up strong lists in St. Louis, Detroit, Cleveland and Washington.

It had on tour nine plays, including two in "Strange Interlude," and several of these traversed territory where "original New York casts" have become a rarity almost unknown.

GENEVA—(AP)—Press galleries of the projected new assembly hall of the League of Nations are designed to accommodate 400 journalists and newspapermen. In the limited space where the league has met for years, the reporters have been packed in like sardines.

WHENCE CAME THIS GIANT OF THE DEEP?



A Chevrolet coach carried a party of westerners to Point Lobos, California, to inspect the carcass of an enormous whale which is said to have been there for centuries.

Close Bass Fishing Season To Protect Spawning Period

Game Commission Closes Certain Fishing Streams; Other Notes

Closing of the season for bass fishing between April 15 and July 1 was found necessary by the state game commission at its last regular monthly meeting. Due to the fact that this is the spawning season for bass it was held imperative that the fish be protected. According to Matt Ryckman, superintendent of hatcheries for the game commission, unless the season was closed during the spawning period bass would be eliminated from Oregon waters in a very few years. "Bass do not spawn like trout but lay their eggs along the shores among grass, fungus and plant growths," says Mr. Ryckman. "These eggs are exposed and it becomes the duty of the male fish to stand guard. This he does with a vengeance, keeping his eyes constantly on the alert for anything that might disturb the eggs. If anglers are allowed to fish bass the male becomes easy prey during the spawning season. If a spinner or a hook is dropped in the vicinity of the eggs over which he watched he immediately fights it and consequently is hooked. Thus it is necessary to protect the male if bass are to be kept in our lakes and sloughs."

During the past few weeks 60,000 cut throat trout, averaging better than six inches in length have been liberated by the state game commission in Washington county. Streams that received 10,000 each were: East Dairy Creek, Tualatin river, Nehalem river, McKay creek, Rock creek and Gales creek. In Yamhill county the Yamhill river and the Willamina each received 10,000 cut-throats.

Closing of streams and lakes made by the state game commission at its March meeting were as follows: Trout creek, Clackamas county, permanently; all lakes in Deschutes county holding eastern brook trout closed on September 15 in conformity with other lakes having these fish; in Walworth county, Wood, Lee, Russ, Orcaut and Bear Lakes closed for three years; in Baker county Black and Van Patton lakes closed until July 1, 1931; in Union county Glacier and Prospect lakes closed for three years; Applegate river in Jackson county and Fish lake closed for two years after August 15.

Plantings of Chinese pheasants are now being made from the farms of the state commission. Recently from the Corvallis farm two crates containing 232 birds were sent to Medford for distribution in the Rogue river country.

ELEVATED HIGHWAY SOLVES PROBLEMS

JERSEY CITY, N. J.—(AP)—Cities that have a traffic crush can learn from northern New Jersey.

This area, just across the Hudson from New York City and burdened with the enormous motor traffic of the metropolitan area, has designed a high-speed elevated highway that is expected to carry a burden of 20,000,000 vehicles a year.

Starting at the Holland tunnel plaza in Jersey City, the roadway ascends by means of a viaduct over the yards of the Erie railroad and then descends beneath the streets of Jersey City, which are connected by ramps, to the westerly side of Bergen hill, where the highway passes under the Hudson boulevard.

There it emerges and continues by viaduct across the meadows along the southerly edge of Newark to the Newark airport.

With exception of two and one-half miles between Tonolow avenue in Jersey City and a point where it crosses the Lincoln highway west of the Passaic river, the roadway is open to traffic. The two and one-half mile gap will be closed with a high level viaduct bridging the Passaic and Hackensack rivers.

The 135-foot clearance above the water will permit steamers to pass up the river without interruption to traffic by opened bridges.

Altogether the cost of the viaduct and underground passage from the Newark airport to the Holland tunnel connecting with New York City, will be \$36,000,000, an average of \$4,500,000 a mile. The five and one-half miles completed have been built at a cost of \$15,800,000.

The new highway will relieve the heavily burdened streets of the metropolitan area of the through traffic which causes delays and confusion and is costly to business. Newark, lying directly in the path of New Jersey traffic to New York City, will be especially benefited.

The elevated roadway is a part of the new high-speed route being constructed across the state from Jersey City to Trenton. Ex-

cept for the high level viaduct between Newark and Jersey City it will be virtually completed by the end of the year.

The viaduct is to be completed in 1932. A feature of the new highway is a straightaway stretch 30 feet wide and 29 miles long between New Brunswick and Trenton.

The elevated highway project was laid out four years ago under direction of Maj. W. G. Sloan then state highway engineer, and now is being completed by his successor, Jacob L. Bauer.

AFRICAN INDUSTRY HIT BY PRICE DROP

ANGORA, Portugese, Africa.—(AP)—The big slump in coffee prices hit this colony a hard blow. It is estimated that plantations containing several million trees will be forced out of production.

Large stocks of coffee are lying in warehouses and the prospects of disposing of it are so poor that it has been seriously suggested that the lower grades be destroyed.

Growers have made pressing appeals to the government, but the colony's financial situation is precarious. This latter phase reached such a muddle that Dr. Cunha Leal was relieved as governor of the Bank of Angola and replaced by Commander Capadas, a naval officer without business experience but upon whom the home government relies to carry out the orders of the federal department of finance.

The coffee growers must, therefore, rely upon their own resources for at least six months as that is the shortest period in which the government says it can straighten out the financial tangle. Meanwhile there is an intense economy campaign in official quarters and this has further tightened the general money situation.

One of the relief measures for which the coffee men are pressing is a high tariff in Portugal on Brazilian products. Although this and other possessions of Portugal make it the second coffee producing country of the world, it imports hundreds of thousands of tons from Brazil yearly.

SYRIAN LITTY FIGHT OFFICIAL'S LUXURY

BEIRUT, Syria.—(AP)—A man who is interested "solely in luxury, in soft living in palaces, in wearing garments of silken and golden tissues" is not the kind of a candidate the Greek-Orthodox community here wants to fill the age-old See of the Patriarchate of Antioch.

A conflict has been in progress for more than a year, since the death of the last Patriarch of Antioch, between the Greek-Orthodox clergy and the lay community. The laymen claim the right of vote, while the archbishops demand as their exclusive right the selection of the occupant of the Chair of Sts. Peter and Paul.

The litty issued a declaration addressed to the archbishops setting forth their demands. It said: "We do not want the candidate to be chosen from among the egoists solely interested in luxury, in alcoholic drinks, in soft living in palaces, in wearing garments of silken and golden tissue, whilst the clergy and the lay community go hungry and naked, lacking the means to teach their children, to care for their sick and to clothe and feed their unhappy families."

"The whole of the Orthodox

community regards with detestation the appointment of a person who cares for himself but to entertain his relatives at the expense of the community and to waste religious funds, according to the customary rules of the game."

CLUB'S SECRETARY RECITES HIS WOES

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, England.—(AP)—Gilbert and Sullivan's operatic policeman of Penzance fame is not the only person whose lot is "not a happy one." Mr. H. Ives, secretary of the Nore Yacht club, on his re-election described a club secretary's life in this way:

If he writes a letter it is too long.

If he sends a postcard it is too short.

If he goes to a committee meeting he is butting in.

If he stays away he is a shirker.

If he duns members for their dues he is insulting.

If he does not collect them he is lax.

If he asks for suggestions he is incompetent.

If he does not ask for suggestions he is bull-headed.

In conclusion Mr. Ives said: "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, if others won't do it the secretary must."

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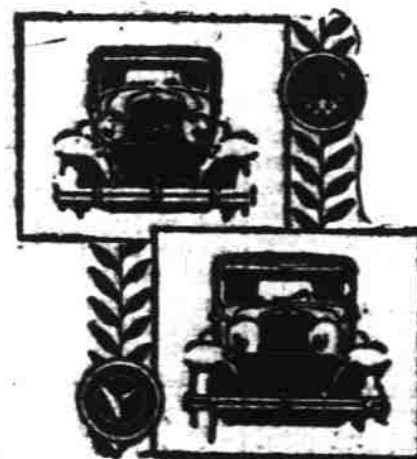
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