

# Romantic Comedy Features Most of Weekend Theatre Bills

## Cooper Stars, Elsinore Film

### "General Died at Dawn" Is Offering; Madeleine Carroll in Cast

A fast-moving story of adventure, intrigue and romance in modern war-torn China, "The General Died at Dawn," which opened at the Elsinore theatre yesterday, brings to the screen a thrilling drama which well might have been taken directly from the newspaper headlines.

"The General Died at Dawn" presents Gary Cooper again in a soldier-of-fortune role, on which has added greatly to his stature as one of filmdom's outstanding stars. Facing opposite him—as a woman who uses her beauty as a lure in the high game of international intrigue—is beautiful blonde Madeleine Carroll, young English actress who is headed for a major position among the great stars.

The film is based on the struggle between modern China and the predatory war-lords who are laying the country waste. On the one side is General Yang, ambitious war-lord intent upon crushing China under his iron heel. On the other is a growing people's movement. Cooper is in the ranks of this movement.

Sent to Shanghai with money with which to buy arms, Cooper is lured aboard a train by Miss Carroll, daughter of a crooked international agent. The train is held up and Cooper is captured. The agent is given the money and sent to Shanghai to pick up Cooper's arms consignment. Once there he decides to flee to America with the money. Cooper escapes from Yang and reaches Shanghai where he kills the agent in a shooting scrape. Yang arrives and takes him prisoner again together with Miss Carroll. He takes them aboard his junk where he intends to torture them into revealing the hiding place of the money which neither of them know.

Miss Carroll discovers she loves Cooper and to atone for her duplicity in leading to his capture, offers to pay Yang with her life if he will permit Cooper to go. Before this becomes necessary, however, Yang is shot in a scuffle. Realizing he is about to die, he orders his soldiers to kill Cooper and the girl and then to kill themselves so that he can enter heaven with an entourage befitting his rank. Just as the soldiers are about to fire, Cooper begins a desperate gamble for life by playing to Yang's vanity.

## The Call Board

- EL SINORE**
  - Today—Double bill, Gary Cooper in "The General Died at Dawn" and Marion Talley in "Follow Your Heart."
  - Wednesday—"A Midsummer Night's Dream" with 50 stars.
  - Saturday—"The Big Broadcast of 1937 with Jack Benny, Burns and Allen, Bob Burns, Special attraction "The March of Time."
- CAPITOL**
  - Today—Double bill, "Two in a Crowd" with Joel McCrea and Pat O'Brien in "Public Enemy's Wife."
  - Tuesday—"Double bill, "I Stand Condemned" with an all star cast and "One in a Million" with Charles Starrett.
  - Thursday—Double bill, Wheeler and Woolsey in "Mummy's Boys," with Buck Jones in "Ride 'Em Cowboy."
- HOLLYWOOD**
  - Today—"San Francisco" with Clark Gable and Jeanette MacDonald.
  - Friday—First showing Ken Maynard in "Avenge Waters" and Our Gang in "Lucky Corner."
- STATE**
  - Today—Alice Faye and Adolphe Menjou in "Sing Baby Sing."
  - Wednesday—Joe McCrea and Merle Oberon in "These Three."
  - Saturday—Zane Grey's "The Arizona Raiders."

## Napoleon at St. Helena Again on Stage



Latest effort to dramatize the life of Napoleon on island of St. Helena at "Longwood." Maurice Evans plays Napoleon in the new play, "St. Helena."

## Broadway Nights

NEW YORK, Oct. 24.—A hundred thousand books have been published on Napoleon Bonaparte, more than have been devoted to any other subject since Jesus. Few plays are among them, and none that are enduring—except, perhaps, "L'Aiglon," and that, of course, is really about his son. The biggest dramatic character of history's last two centuries has defied dramatists to place him upon the stage. Their efforts have not made Napoleon live again, as Caesar does in Shakespeare and St. Joan in Shaw.

The latest effort, "St. Helena," by R. C. Sheriff, who wrote "Journey's End," and Jeanne de Casalis succeeds no better than other dramatizations in making the Hitler-Mussolini of the 19th century human, though it does turn a revealing spotlight upon a phase of the Corsican adventurer's career passed over by most cherishers of the Napoleonic legend.

Surprisingly, it throws an aura of glamor upon what was actually the least glamorous part of Napoleon's career. It is hard to reconcile the elegant settings and brilliant costumes of Jo Mielziner with the description of the cancer-eaten Napoleon's life in his two residences on St. Helena given by Las Cases.

Earthquake Scene Convincing Paul Muni was first choice of Max Gordon, the producer, for the Napoleon of this play. He would have been more adaptable to the requirements of the role, perhaps, than Maurice Evans, but Mr. Evans deserves the plaudits he is receiving for his delineation of a far greater actor than any we have had on our stage since 1821. Reginald Mason is an excellent Bertrand, and Whitford Kane will reawaken interest of audiences in O'Meara, the Irish surgeon of H. M. S. Northumberland, who asked to share Napoleon's exile since no other doctor was available. The dramatists and Percy Waram, make a villain of Sir Hudson Lowe, and undeserved reputation which we hope some brilliant dramatist will rehabilitate some day.

One highlight of the play is a convincing earthquake scene in which the sound effect is provided by an electric organ. The producer attempts to use a record of the sound effects in the sensational earthquake scene of the motion picture "San Francisco," and found they weren't realistic enough on the stage!

We fear that "St. Helena" will not be as popular as Mr. Gordon's noteworthy production de-

serves to be. Napoleon is the world's most popular Horatio Alger hero. The Sheriff-De Casalis portrait of him is his faults, but it is too near the truth to please his admirers.

Whatever the merits of Mr. Evans' performance as Napoleon, premier acting honors in the new cast offerings on Broadway go to John Gielgud, the first of the season's two "Hamlets." Those who never suspected this play to be possessed of humor are in for a pleasant surprise, for Gielgud makes it as light and witty in some moments as he does tragic in others. It would be an affectation for this reporter to compare the Gielgud "Hamlet" with others for the only other "Hamlets" he ever saw were repertoire offerings of Fritz Lehner and Robert Mantel, and a modern dress version by Basil Sidney. He has never believed that critics could really remember the fine points of a characterization of Salvini sufficiently years afterward to be able to speak with authority in proclaiming this or that actor the greatest "Hamlet" or "Richard III."

The excellence of Guthrie McClintic's production and cast naturally creates exciting speculation concerning the forthcoming production of Leslie Howard, which promises to give New York a duel of "Hamlets" unparalleled since Macready and Forrest caused riots. Lillian Gish is Ophelia, Judith Anderson the queen, Arthur Byron a brilliant Polonius. John Emery as Laertes, rises above even his vivid Willie James in last season's "Parnell."

The picture will have a road show presentation—all seats reserved and only two showings daily. Tickets will go on sale next week.

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William Shakespeare, of course, could not have imagined motion pictures, but in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" he creates the perfect motion picture story. He blended together fantasy and farce, romance and pathos, thrills and suspense, jealousy and agony.

## 'Nine Days Queen' Coming Here Soon

### Authentic Story of Lady Jane Grey Booked For November at State

A madrigal, rarely heard and composed by Henry VIII, is played on a virginal of ancient design in "Nine Days a Queen" (The Story of Lady Jane Grey), the GB picture co-starring Cedric Hardwicke and Nova Pilbeam and coming Nov. 12 and 13 to the State theatre.

Hubert Bath, musical director for GB, got the madrigal from the Harley collection of manuscripts in the London Museum. It is often referred to as the "King's Ballad."

Written for three voices, Mr. Bath added a fourth voice and the accompaniment of a virginal, which was a favorite musical instrument during the Tudor period. Its two short keyboards and music box stand on four ornate legs. In "Nine Days a Queen" it is sung by Nova Pilbeam, Sybil Thorndike, Leslie Perrins and Peter Croft, the latter playing the accompaniment.

"Nine Days a Queen" is a picturization of one of the most colorful and tragic periods in history, describing the dramatic events which took place in Tudor England immediately following the death of Henry VIII. It was written and directed by Robert Stevenson.

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## Gable in Historic Story, Hollywood

### "San Francisco" Combines Musical Attractions, Earthquake Epic

"San Francisco," which opened last night at the Hollywood theatre, brings Clark Gable and Jeanette MacDonald together as a co-starring team for the first time.

The musical romance gives Miss MacDonald her widest scope in vocal numbers in her screen career—a total of nine presentations ranging from a solemn hymn to the most beautiful operatic aria.

Clark Gable returns to the vigorous type of role that first elevated him to stardom as a blustery Barbary Coast gambling baron who has no faith in anything but his own power and his charm over-

co-starring with Miss MacDonald and Gable is Spencer Tracy in his most unusual role, that of a priest; a distinguished supporting cast includes Jack Holt, Jessie Ralph, Ted Healy, Shirley Ross, Margaret Irving, Harold Huber, Al Shean, William Ciccardi and Kenneth Harlan.

"San Francisco" is laid in the colorful period of 1905-06, its life of gaiety and song; its Barbary Coast prior to and through the disaster that leveled the famous Golden Gate city thirty years ago.

Among Miss MacDonald's vocal numbers are: "The Jewel a Song" from "Faust"; musical excerpts through "Faust"; musical excerpts throughout the "Faust" opera; the "Prison Trio" with Mephistopheles and Faust; an aria from "La Traviata"; "Love Me and the World Is Mine"; "My Heart Is Free"; Gounod's "Ave Marie"; "Nearer My God to Thee"; "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "San Francisco." Other rollicking musical features of the period are contributed by Shirley Ross and Ted Healy in the quaint setting of a Barbary Coast resort.

## Bowes Show Unit Coming to Salem

### Some of Major's Best Are in Group Billed Here Nov. 20, Capitol

Two little words mean magic, those words "All Right," spoken into a microphone of the Columbia Broadcasting system studio and coming from the lips of the Major of the amateur, Major Edward Bowes, means make or break to many a hopeful radio star.

Once the major has given his stamp of approval to an amateur one can rest assured he or she ranks with the best radio and vaudeville talent in amateur ranks, and the cream of the crop has been gathered together for another unit of the major's stage shows, this time called "Major Bowes Transcontinental Stage Review," which comes to the Capitol on Friday, November 20.

Manager Carl Porter of the Capitol says:

"In booking this unit of the major's shows, I feel that Salem is particularly lucky inasmuch as this is considered by all critics as the finest unit ever brought to the west coast."

The cast includes popular favorites who are familiar to all the major's radio fans: Paris Lee, Mae McPhee, "Windy" Jack, Rhoda Case, James Erickson, Ruth O'Neil, the Mischling Melodians, Adolphus Quincy Scott, and the Major Bowes' Swing Band.

Every act in this unit has been tried out on the road and has been a proven success. In fact such a success that the word amateur has been dropped from the unit name.

The screen bill with the Bowes unit will be unusually strong with Sybil Jason and Guy Kibbee sharing honors in "The Captain's Kid."

Firemen Are Called JEFFERSON, Oct. 24.—Late Tuesday evening the fire department was called to the home of Rev. and Mrs. W. F. Willings to extinguish a chimney fire.

## In Fast-Moving Adventure



Gary Cooper and Madeleine Carroll are the co-stars in "The General Died at Dawn" now featured at the Elsinore theatre.



Above are Joel McCrea and Joan Bennett starring in "Two in a Crowd" which is showing today at the Capitol theatre.



Clark Gable, Ted Healy and Jeanette MacDonald appear in the popular musical film "San Francisco" now playing at the Hollywood theatre.

## "Two in a Crowd" Plays at Capitol

### Fun Reaches Howling Point With Joan Bennett and Joe McCrea Stars

"Two in a Crowd," Universal's rollicking romantic comedy drama, which opens today at the Capitol theatre, starring Joan Bennett and Joel McCrea, reaches the height of hilarity, often carrying fun to the point of howling laughter. The work of the stars and the direction of the offering are as buoyant as a child's soap bubbles floating in the summer sunshine. And the resultant revelry is twice as carefree.

"Two in a Crowd" proves that one half of a thousand-dollar bill is not worth any more than half a soap bubble; that a girl should never spend her sweetheart's wedding tressourea money unless she is sure she wants to marry him.

The highly amusing screen story begins with the principals finding the torn halves of a thousand dollar bill. Neither of them can get anywhere with the fragment, but they can, and do, go places when they paste the sections together. In fact, the young romantic fellow almost goes to jail when he tries to change the "grand" in the same bank from which some gangsters had stolen it.

The humor hums faster and merrier as the modern sweethearts attempt to solve their problems and find themselves continually more deeply entangled in situations lamentable to them but laughable to everybody else. "Two in a Crowd" is a "must see" picture, one in a million.

## Roosevelt Supporters To Rally at Stayton At 8 on Monday Night

STAYTON, Oct. 24.—Democrats in Stayton and vicinity will stage a Roosevelt rally in the grange hall here at 8 o'clock Monday night at which all democratic nominees in the county have been invited to be present. George McLeod of Salem will be the principal speaker.

Miss Kathryn Gunnell will show her pictures of the Bonneville dam, the CCC work, the flax industry, the coast bridges, and the statehouse excavation. A concert will be given by the Stayton band. The general public is invited to attend.

## Pic Social Has Crowd

TALBOT, Oct. 24.—A large crowd attended the pic social at the Talbot schoolhouse last night.

## Co-Stars in "Sing Baby"



Adolphe Menjou and Alice Faye appearing in the film "Sing Baby Sing" featured at the State theatre today.

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**HOLLYWOOD**  
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Today - 2 to 11 P. M., 15c

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JACK HOLT TED HEALY

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**JOEL McCREA**

**Two in a Crowd**

ALISON SHIPWORTH  
REGINALD DENNY

**PUBLIC ENEMY'S WIFE**

**PAT O'BRIEN**  
MARGARET LINDSAY  
ROBT ARMSTRONG, CESAR ROMERO  
DICK FORAN, RICHARD FURIEL

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