

Lucy Ball, No Shower Singer, Rehearses for Broadway Play Debut

By JACK GAVER
UPI Drama Editor
New York — UPI — "Why, I haven't even been in the habit of singing in the shower!"

Such frankness from the leading lady of a forthcoming Broadway musical who has to sing could come only from the redhead popularly known, thanks to television, as Lucy, and, more formally, as Lucille Ball.

"Naturally, I've been taking vocal training like mad," said the heroine of TV's "I Love Lucy" series. "I have a marvelous coach, Carlos Menotti, and by the way, he's not Gian Carlo Menotti, the opera composer."

"I'm not going to do any of that talking-off-a-song stuff the way some non-singers do in musical shows these days. Seems to me that that is harder than actually trying to sing. I'll just have to take my chances by rearing back and letting go."

Mostly Funny Songs
"Fortunately, I'll have mostly funny or action or character type songs. That means I'll be doing a lot of cavorting around while I'm singing, and maybe that will keep people from paying too much attention to the quality of the voice."

Miss Ball will make her Broadway debut Dec. 15 at the Alvin theater in "Wildcat," a work involving proven Broadway talents in all departments will find her playing a girl wildcatter in the oilfields of the southwest some 40 years ago.

"It's a sort of tomboy type of role," Miss Ball said with relish. "I get into the business because my father was in it, and there is the incentive of trying to make good because I have a crippled sister to look after. The romance angle is a continual fight with the leading man (Keith Andes). I'm the sort who always thinks and talks big without any substance to back it up. I guess you'd say I'm a sort of conwoman in the oil business."

The show goes into rehearsal next week to get ready for a six-week run in Philadelphia prior to Broadway, but Miss Ball has been busy with her voice coach and other tutors for several weeks.

"Ever since I got out of the hospital here," she explained, pointing at a slight scar on one shin that is a reminder of a Hollywood mishap early in the summer when she was making a film with Bob Hope. "It Didn't Bleed."

"I got that hit on the head that everyone heard about at the time it happened, but I got over that. At the same time I had this little scrape on the shin. Didn't even bleed. But you know that thing just never healed up, and by the time I got to New York I simply had to go into a hospital and have a slight operation to get rid of an infection so I'd be ready in time for rehearsals."

It may never happen again, but Miss Ball is one star who comes to Broadway equipped with production money — all \$400,000 of it. The sole backer is Desilu, the fabulously successful TV production company created by Miss Ball and her ex-husband, Desi Arnaz, of which she is a vice president and major stockholder.

"There is a twofold reason for this setup," the star explained. "For one thing, I just

didn't like the idea, once I'd made up my mind to do this show, of having to be responsible to a number of individual backers, including many friends, who were all too willing to invest in it.

Stockholders Unhappy
"Also, the Desilu stockholders weren't too happy about my stepping out of the TV picture after eight very profitable years. But, by making Desilu the backer of the show, there is a continuing relationship, and I am still working for them with the possibility of bringing in more profits."

Miss Ball has taken a long lease on a seven-room apartment in a still incomplete apartment house complex on the fashionable upper east side of Manhattan which she shares with her son, daughter and mother.

"I want the show to be a success, but I hope it doesn't last as long as the lease," she said. "I'll settle for a two-season run."



A RIGHT BIG SHOE—The old woman who lived in a shoe had nothing on this youngster in Vienna. The lad is comfortably ensconced in a king-size shoe after trying it on for size. The skin of an entire cow was needed to make the shoe, which will be exhibited at fairs and exhibitions.

(UPI Telephoto)

Growth Chemicals Cause Flowers of Opposite Sexes

London — (Science Service) — Plant growth substances have confused the green world so thoroughly that some plants are producing flowers of the opposite sex.

Dr. E. W. Weston of the University of London here reports in the British journal Nature that female hop plants have produced male flowers after being sprayed, during early stages of growth, with low doses of a weakly active plant growth substance, alpha (2-chlorophenylthio) propionic acid.

Other researchers, Dr. Weston notes, have reported female flowers on male plants

after spraying with other growth substances, 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid and indoleacetic acid.

The difference in which way the sex change goes depends upon whether the plant to be sprayed is a short-day

plant, like poinsettias and chrysanthemums, or a long-day plant, such as hop plants and spinach.

Short-Day Plants
Short-day plants are those that begin to flower when the days begin to shorten and the nights become longer. Long-day plants behave just the opposite.

High auxin (plant growth substance) levels in short-day plants might promote pistillate or female structures, Dr. Weston asserts, while high auxin levels in long-day plants enhance staminate or male structure formation.

Druggist Gets Tired Of Patron's Humor

Chicago — Robert Xavier McAllister is a druggist. He's getting a little tired of having patrons point out that the first two initials of his name are Rx.

Man Picks Wrong Place To Sleep It Off

Nashville, Tenn. — Edgar Blank, 37, said he felt ill after a salesman's party and stopped his car "to sleep it off."

Blank didn't realize that the spot he picked was in front of a Nashville police station.

He was fined \$70 on a charge of drunk driving.

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5 Dr. Ross' CAT FOODS



TO BE ON BROADWAY—Lucille Ball is awaiting opening of a forthcoming Broadway musical in which she makes her debut in "Wildcat." Of her vocal chores in the production, she says "Why, I haven't even been in the habit of singing in the shower!" She has been taking vocal training in preparation for the show, however.

(UPI Telephoto)

Oregon Supreme Court Decisions

Salem — UPI — Following are decisions rendered Wednesday by the Oregon Supreme Court:

Joseph T. Stage, appellant vs. E. W. St. Pierre, appeal from Multnomah county; opinion by Justice William Perry; Judge James Bain affirmed; malpractice suit involving a post-surgical complication, doctor cleared.

Roy Phillipi vs. Pacific Grains, Inc., appellant; appeal from Polk county; opinion by Justice Gordon Sloan; Judge Fred McHenry reversed; action to recover the contract price for grass seed and a counterclaim, judgment of \$9,940 for Phillipi reversed and counterclaim allowed.

Judge Reversed
Lillian Meyers for estate of T. Natalia Harriman vs. Oasis Sanitarium, Inc., and Anna A. Hershey, appellants; appeal from Multnomah county; opinion of Justice Alfred T. Goodwin; Judge Pro Tem Edward A. Butler reversed; judgment of \$2,080 for an employee who slipped while mopping a floor reversed.

John H. Smith vs. Melvin L. Jacobsen, appellant; appeal from Multnomah county; opinion by Justice Pro Tem Dal King; Judge Alfred P. Dobson affirmed; judgment of \$20,000 for a pedestrian hit by a car in Portland affirmed.

Eunice M. Cederoth vs. Don H. Cowles, appellant; appeal from Multnomah county; opinion by Justice Pro Tem Dal King; Judge Glen Hieber reversed; action for wrongful death of a pedestrian, order granting a new trial reversed.

Gerald E. Thomas, appellant vs. Dad's Root Beer; appeal from Multnomah county; opinion by Justice Pro Tem E. H. Howell; Judge Victor Olliver affirmed; judgment for \$7,500 on a charge of fraudulent representation affirmed against Karnosh.

Clare D. Slotte, appellant vs. Ernest Lee Gustin; appeal from Clatsop county; opinion by Justice Pro Tem E. H. Howell; Judge Howard K. Zimmerman affirmed; judgment for Gustin in a car accident case affirmed.

Blanche Rossman vs. Roxie Graham Forman, appellant; appeal from Multnomah county; opinion per curiam; Judge Paul R. Harris affirmed; judgment of \$8,441 recovered by

a passenger against the driver of a car affirmed.
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Monmouth Robbery Brings Seven Years
Dallas, Ore. — UPI — A West Covina, Calif., man has been sentenced to seven years in the Oregon State Correctional Institution for armed robbery of a service station at Monmouth Aug. 9.

Richard Evan Swafford, 20, was sentenced by Polk County Circuit Judge Arlie Walker.

Another California man, Leland Everett Little, 31, of Marysville, has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity in connection with the same holdup and his trial was set for Nov. 16.

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