

The Advocate

True Stories Achievement Stories

THE ILLUSTRATED FEATURE SECTION-June 20, 1931

No Legs in New Broadway Show

Some Comedy Stars get as far on Their Shape as on Their Ability



Margaret McCall



Lorraine Harris



Adelaide Hall



Annette Kellingsworth





Gertrude Saunders

Theatergoers Blink when "Rhapsody in Black," Newest Musical Comedy, Gets Going Without Shapely Limbs Kicking, Wiggling, Strutting and Prancing.

blinked their eyes, pinched French ever dared to be

shapely limbs, kicking, wiggling, prancing supporting Several American actresses who equally shapely torsos of have won fame and recognition in the nut-brown chorines and high-theater have gotten almost as far on yaller ladies of the ensemble? their shape as on their ability. Jos-cubine Baker, the girl who startled Broadway couldn't quite understand.

Ever since the merry days of the gaudy Floradora Girls, back in the gay nineties, when theatergoers were edriven to the Great White Way in horse-drawn carriages, legs and musical comedies have been practically synonymous. America has grown completely leg conscious.

striking example.

Adelaide Hall, in spite of the fact that she possesses a fairly excellent voice, owes her success more to the undressed hit she made in her "Diga Diga Doo" song of the "Blackbirds of 1928" than to anything else.

Aida Ward, whose voice is of far superior quality and range, and who appeared in the same show, but unlike Adelaide, never exposed her limbs to view, has not climbed as high up the ladder of fame as the little bronze goddess.

Americans Moral Hypocrites

America has always held up its Several years ago when the chorus hands in holy horror whenever the girls first began to shed their stock-

Harris Theatre and let Broad tioned. But the French laugh up is a rare thing indeed and uncoverway get a peek at his latest their sleeves at American hypocrisy sepia vehicle, "Rhapsody in because they know that America is Black," blase theatergoers just as interested in nudity as the

themselves to make sure they This is proved by the fact that the were awake and sat through first places to which American tourists this unusual and splendid performance a bit bewildered. are to the places with naughty reputations. And the crowds that swarm What? No legs? they asked themselves. A Broadway musical show without any shapely limbs kicking wig-

Many Owe Success to Form

ephine Baker, the girl who startled the world when she appeared in only Ever since the merry days striking example.

Shed Hose for Bare Legs

ings to appear in bare legs raised a furor. The practice was branded as indecent. Long-nosed busy-bodies wanted to have the thea-By WILBUR THIN

When Lew Leslie swung open the doors of the Sam H.

Moulin Rouge and other Parisian resorts where the feminine form is displayed without restraint are mendagers and producers yanked into court. The general public liked it, however, and now to see a chorus warring the long hip-length stockings wanted to have the them now in vogue merely a superficial now in vogue merely a superficial and the sky is now the only to be followed by more brazening.

America has had a taste of leg considered to the short-lived only to be followed by more brazening. Bring on your fig leaves.

with things that were once thought im-

Will the short skirts of a year or



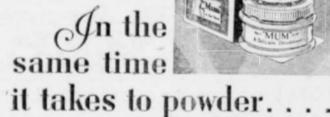
JOSEPHINE BAKER, who startled the world when she ap-peared clad in only a bunch of bananas

course.

Glorified Figure

Irvin C. Miller, the noted impresario, was the first to glorify the brownskin girl in what the artists call the "all-in-all." Not only did the daring producer expose the calves, a sight that once caused men to blink their eyes and rub their hands with satisfaction, but he went higher up the tapering thighs, past the curving hips on up to where protruding busts covered with but a dainty chain of rhinestones held the eye for a second and then let it follow the contours of smooth brown shoulders that lost themselves at the ends of slender fingertips. Ten years ago a "Brownfingertips. Ten years ago a "Brown-skin Models" would have been im-

Where Do We Go From Here? If the few short years since the war have broken down many of the





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