

England, Which Barred "De Lawd" From the Stage, Glorifies "Judas" in New Play

British Laws Prevented Harrison from Appearing in "The Green Pastures," but New Play Mocks Divinity of Christ.

Dear old London, which raised such a howl when there was talk of carrying "The Green Pastures" to England, because the laws of the land forbade the impersonation of the deity on the stage, now has a greater problem—instead of "de Lawd," they have "Judas" to worry with.

Of course, it is a long jump from the divine and lovable character of the Lord God of Hosts as portrayed by Richard B. Harrison, or the Angel Gabriel, first made famous by the late Wesley Hill, to the most despicable character in Christian history—the betrayer of Jesus Christ. But the reason the play is creating such a stir is that instead of condemning Judas, the play which bears his name seeks to defend him and prove that only worthy motives caused the twelfth disciple to deliver the saviour into the hands of his enemies. Such a doctrine is so far removed from all of the teachings of the theologians that it is apparent that a howl would not only be raised in staid old England, but a furor of disapproval would result should the play be brought to America.

Religious Themes Popular

Religious plays have won a definite place in American theatricals, due to the success of "The Green Pastures," which is continuing its phenomenal run in the loop, the bloodiest sector of crime-ridden Chicago. Even hard-boiled gangsters are reported to leave the theatre deeply touched by the pathos injected into the leading role by Richard B. Harrison.

Seeing the creator parading across the stage in the form of an ante-bellum preacher and fat angels enjoying themselves at a fish fry, was strain enough on the American moralists, but to glorify Judas Iscariot and prove him a hero instead of a villain, would be entirely too much.

"Christ is a Dream"

The play, as described by the American Weekly, is as follows: "The author, Claude Houghton, makes Judas not a thief who carried the bag, and who betrayed the Master for thirty pieces of silver, but a well-meaning gentleman who objected to the miracles of Jesus, whether they were genuine or not. Finally he put the Saviour to the test to see if He could save Himself.

"When Judas of the play in which he is the hero, realizes that his Master cannot or will not save himself, he cries out:

"He is a dream—a lie! He is false—disproved. He is not of Truth... Some fiend that mars and mocks... let the whole world sink... be cast an empty bubble on unnumbered winds."

"There is a pause and silence on the stage after this speech and, in the audience, usually angry, whispers of 'blasphemy.' The angry ones are somewhat appeased a moment later, when Judas speaks again:

"A voice... it calls me through the night. A voice I hear, yet would not hear. I come away... away. It calls me hence. I come!"

"Judas rushes off into the outer darkness, supposedly to his doom, and in the room on the stage the lamp goes out.

"If it had not been for that last line, and some earlier ones, hinting that eternal punishment is reserved



YOUNG PRODUCER—John Henderson and his wife, Dorothy, who were seen recently with Mamie Smith's Parisian Revue.

for Judas, there is little doubt that the Lord Chamberlain, who is the Earl of Cromer, and a member of the King's household, and without whose permission no play can be publicly produced in England, would never have allowed the curtain to rise on "Judas."

Puts Jesus to Test

The plot of the play is best described in the following paragraphs:

Away from the hurly-burly of the rabble of Jerusalem's street crowds is Judas, and with him is Ruth, the betrothed of Judas. The crowd is discussing the momentous happenings of the day, and Judas enters, but remains silent with a cynical smile hovering round his lips as he listens to the testimonies of Jesus's powers.

In his own room, with his father, he speaks. His first words regarding the Nazarine are:

"He brings another madness... there is no God but man, and man is God." He is chided by his father, who has spoken with Jesus, and now tells him:

"My son, thy words outstrip the arrogance of earth and race with that of hell."

But Judas remains skeptical.

"What is thy God to me?" he asks. "I weary of gods that bind our feet with fetters, shackle our souls and lure our hoping hearts with lying dreams. When have they answered us?"

Judas's greatest complaint against the Saviour is that He has claimed to raise the dead to life. Judas's idea

is that the dead should remain dead; that there is no merit, that it is wicked, blasphemous, for anyone to disturb the dead from their rest and bring them back to further pain and sorrow. He reviles Jesus for doing it.

Judas, according to the play, did not betray to get the money, but to

"BLANC ET NOIR" TICKLES PARIS

"Blanc et Noir" (Black and White) Sacha Guitry's comedy which recently scored a success in the moving pictures, has again appeared on the Grand Boulevards as a legitimate play. Two years ago it was played at the Varieties, with Benglia, the famous Senegalese actor and dancer in the role of Allan Smith.

This comedy, it will be recalled, represents the white wife of a white business man, who, to spite her husband for his supposed neglect, presents him with a Negro baby, whose father is a colored American singer, named Allan Smith. The humor of the situation arises when the husband strives desperately to exchange the black baby for a white one as the color of the child would make him a butt of laughter for his friends, the color being too evident a proof of his wife's infidelity.

Benglia, who still dances nightly in his popular night club, "Le Train Bleu," is appearing in "Maya" and winning great applause.

Beauty Hints

By ANTOINETTE

The white of an egg applied to the skin on the face and allowed to dry on is a facial mask of astringent value. Some people put a second coating on top of the first. You can feel a tightening of the sagging skin.

Regular shampooing suggestions may be had for a stamped, addressed envelope.

Enlarged Pores

Here is a formula for a lotion you may prepare yourself for enlarged pores: glycerin, 1/2 ounce; powdered borax, 1/4 ounce; camphor water 1/2 pint. Apply after the skin has been thoroughly cleansed and allow to dry on.

see if the Christ really could save himself.

"The Green Pastures" closes with God looking down from heaven as the sound of the nails being driven in the hands and feet of his son come up to him. He has it in his power to destroy the earth, but the sacrifice of Jesus gives him a new feeling toward mankind. In this scene Richard B. Harrison reaches his greatest dramatic heights.

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