

# THEATERS AND THESPIANS

## AMUSEMENT HOUSES GROWING IN FAVOR

Salem's Movies, Vaudeville Houses and Opera House Have Steadily Increasing Patronage.

SECRET OF SUCCESS IS ENTERPRISE OF MANAGERS

No Expense Spared in Giving People of City Best Attractions to Be Found During Year.

"The play's the thing," according to one of Shakespeare's heroes. It figures quite prominently in Salem's pleasure-loving people's program. The movies have been steadily growing in favor here. During the past year the movie houses have increased to four, the Globe being opened last spring. With good films at the Globe and Wexford, and the same quality at the Bligh and Ye Liberty, interspersed with vaudeville, coupled with the road shows at the Grand, there has been an abundance of entertainment during the past year.

The road shows have been probably the best in the history of Salem. Manager Waters has been successful in booking high-class attractions and Salem has had an opportunity to see stars who have hitherto come no nearer than Portland.

Size Is Increased. The size of Ye Liberty was increased largely by an addition, which also included a stage for use in vaudeville attractions. Following this addition, Ye Liberty's card included vaudeville shows two nights a week.

The advance in photoplays has been marked during the year and there has been great progress made in producing attractions which required stars of the so-called legitimate stage. Promises of startling developments in the photoplay staging was foreshadowed by the Edison talking pictures.

The outlook for Salem amusement places during the coming year is promising. The managers are enterprising and up to date and spare no expense in giving their patrons the best films produced.

## SEVEN ACCIDENTS WITH BOMBS IN MAKING COMEDY



During the production of the comedy, "And the Villain Still Pursued Her," produced by the Nestor company, seven men were burned and bruised by the explosion of bombs. The play is a travesty on old-time melodrama. Eddie Lyons, who played the chief of police, while riding his bicycle through a dozen or so bombs distributed over the ground fell just as they exploded. He was burned seriously about the face and hands and his hair and eyebrows were singed. Probably this was the most serious accident; minor players received hurts such as cuts from flying rocks, burns and severe falls from bicycles.

Many of the things that happen in the production of a comedy which are not in the scenario are oftentimes more funny than anything in the script, even when they are unfortunate.

ATTRIBUTES HER SUCCESS TO HER UNTIRING WORK. There is a popular idea that the attainment of success as an actor in motion pictures is rather a matter of good luck than ability and the result of down right hard work. But a careless glance over the biographies of motion picture stars will dislodge this notion. Edna Mason, artist, actress, singer and leading woman with the Otis Turner Rex company of the Universal did not attain her success through any accident.

## BROADWAY HAS REAL CHRISTMAS PLAY NOW

One of Those Kind Wherein Cheerful Ill. Needs Operation and Grand-Parents Finally Relent.

CHILDREN OF THEATRICAL PARENTS MAKE THEIR DEBUT

Thirty-Odd Road Shows Closed Recently and Many Stage People Are Seeking New Jobs.

BY BEAU RIALTO. (Written for the United Press.) New York, Dec. 20.—Broadway has a real Christmas play for the first time in many seasons. Incidentally the first snow of the season, either stage or natural, fell at the Maxine Elliott theatre, when "Things That Count," opened there the other night, succeeding "The Lure," of police and grand jury fame. "The Things That Count" are children which is as it should be in a Christmas play, and the piece is itself one of the few things theatrical that count in this season of failures and near-failures.



Manager Waters, of the Salem Amusement & Holding Company.

children and women, major patrons of holiday plays, demand. Certain it is that if "Old Scrooge" had lived to see this pretty, thoroughly wholesome play, the rattling chains would have been superfluous in his conversion from a human crab to a benevolent old gentleman. "A Christmas Carol" would be no misnomer for "The Things That Count," except that as a title it is a bit threadbare.

A young man and girl are estranged from his parents, who refuse to accept her. They have a little child, who gets sick and must be operated upon. The tragedy happens on Christmas eve, at a children's party in the tenement where the young people live, and at the critical moment the elder parents of the man arrive on the scene. The old woman immediately melts and becomes a veritable Christmas angel. That's the



"The Living Corpse," Count Tolstoi's Famous Play in Four Parts, at the Wexford Sunday and Monday.

whole story. An atmosphere of snow, sleigh-bells and the "peace and good will" stuff do the rest. The lead is most capably played by Miss Alice Brady, daughter of William A. Brady, the manager.

Last week saw a remarkable galaxy of young stars, all the children of the theatrical parents, making their debuts on Broadway. Miss Alice Brady, who has been on the stage for a season or two in minor parts, made her first appearance in a serious role as the leading woman in "The Things That Count," and her success was instantaneous. Two nights later Miss Elaine Hammerstein, daughter of Arthur Hammerstein and grand-daughter of Oscar Hammerstein, made her first appearance in New York in "High Jinks." She is a bud of this season, and had her first experience when "High Jinks" was tried out on the road. At Hammerstein's Victoria at the same time was Miss Liane Carrera, daughter of Anna Held. Miss Carrera

disastrous season. That line of talk is always heard about this time of the year along Broadway, but in this instance it is more or less substantiated by the facts. Shows have failed everywhere and their bleaching bones mark the various circuits from coast to coast and from Canada to the Gulf. Peculiar twists have been noted, too, among the plays that have gone by the board. Productions that have done fairly well in New York, have failed utterly on the road, and other plays that have toured successfully for weeks in the West and Middle West, have failed signally on coming to Broadway.

There are many contributing causes to this state of affairs. Primarily, of course, the fault must lie with the plays themselves. Few dramas or musical comedies of real merit have been put out this season. The play-writers seem to have lost the knack. But a contributing cause, heavily responsible in the moving picture theatre. Every city in the United States is now honey-combed with "movies," there being one or two in every neighborhood, easy to reach without going down town.

St. Louis, for instance, has about 700,000 inhabitants and last year there were 64,000,000 paid admissions to the "movies" in that city. The picture houses now put on a few vaudeville turns, and some, in New York and other large cities, maintain stock companies to intersperse the picture with tabloid dramas. Admission ranges from a nickel to a quarter. When one, for five cents, can run around the corner and get an evening's entertainment, without an automobile, and without "dressing up," it is small wonder that the expensive downtown theatres are suffering.

## NOTES OF THE STAGE OF INTEREST TO EVERY ONE

Madam Aguglia, the famous Italian actress who scored a sensational hit on Broadway about four years ago, is to return to this country in the near future under the management of the Messrs. Shubert. Madam Aguglia will present a number of plays from her repertoire, which includes "Zaza," "The Thief," "Camille," "Salome" and "Electra," in addition to a number of native Italian dramas such as "Malia," a tragedy in which she scored a veritable sensation on her first visit to this country. Madam Aguglia, who is due in New York on December 20, has been playing in South America for two years. She comes to New York City direct from a long and notable engagement in Buenos Ayres.

The engagement of "The Pleasure Seekers" at the Winter Garden has been extended, and this production will remain in New York for some weeks to come. The two leading women in this very gay and amusing production are Florence Moore and Dorothy Jarion, both of whom have made great personal hits in this piece.

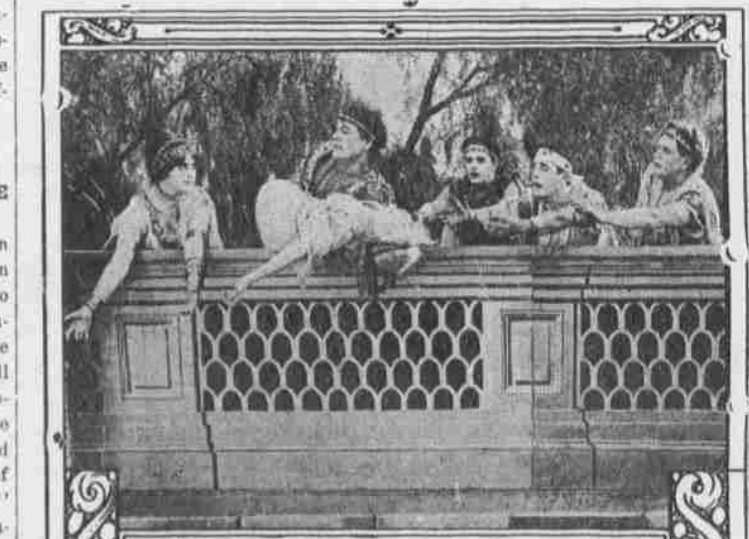
The incomparable Gaby Deslys, who

is making a whirlwind tour to the Pacific coast and back under the management of the Messrs. Shubert, will be seen this week in St. Louis and in Kansas City, playing each of these cities for three days only. "The Little Parisienne," which is serving Miss Deslys as her vehicle this year, has developed into the most profitable and most artistic attraction in which she has ever been seen. The astonishing thing about Gaby on tour is that practically all the seats have actually been sold for every engagement before her arrival. Beyond all question Gaby is the greatest individual drawing star ever offered the American public.



"FIRES OF FATE" REX PHOTO-PLAY

Acted in a most capable manner and love with the young doctor, a pretty romance is brought into the story, and it topley revolves around the efforts of a young doctor to improve conditions in the tenement district of a great city—father's own houses, that finally brings to force a certain owner to building better houses and pay more attention to his tenements. Through the daughter that need improving and should make a lasting impression.



"INTO THE LION'S PIT" UNIVERSAL

Ethel Davis, leading woman of the Powers company, was painfully injured as the result of an accident when she was thrown into a lion's den. She has been confined to the hospital at the company's ranch for three weeks with a complicated internal injury that, for a time, threatened her life. The accident occurred during the production of "Into the Lion's Pit," a Roman costume story in two parts. The pit into which Miss Davis was thrown was built especially for the occasion and was thirteen feet deep.



"HIS OWN BLOOD" POWERS SCREEN PLAY

This photoplay which deals with a timely subject is not merely entertaining, but is intended to accomplish something in the uplift of humanity, in the regeneration of society. You have heard considerable about the evils of some soft drinks. Edwin August, the producer has made this subject the theme of his play. He is shown in a new role, that of a father who is crushed with the unchangeable moral that "crime, like a chicken, comes home to roost." The story, gripping in its heart interest, vividly shows one of the great evils that has an insidious hold upon society. Dave Harding, as played by Mr. August, is a millionaire manufacturer of soft drinks. His son, Frank, is engaged to Ellen. Frank becomes addicted to liquor and wild company. Harding finally manages to wean the boy away from this habit and reinstates him in his affections and his sweetheart's love. Believing that the soft drink manufactured by his father is harmless, Frank makes a specialty, in a short time, in drinking it. The drink contains an insidious drug and Frank becomes a slave to it before his father realizes. The father suffers the pangs of the damned when he finds his boy is in mortal danger as a result of his own concoction. An operation is necessary. In the meantime, the pure food authorities investigate the father's product, and prohibit its manufacture. Harding, in remorse, closes down his factory and gives his ill-gotten gains to charity. The operation on his son is a success to Ellen. Frank becomes addicted to

## SHAM BATTLE IN WHICH "MOVIE" INDIANS AND MEXICANS USED LOADED GUNS



Indians and Mexicans undertook to settle some of their grievances against some cowboys by ramming metal and lead down the muzzles of their guns and firing them during a recent sham battle that took place in the making of a spectacular western photoplay for the "101 Bison" company, at their ranch, near Los Angeles, California. Both cowboys and Indians were employed by the company, and it is first time in the history of motion picture that such a thing happened.

The pieces of lead and the metal and empty cartridges shown in the accompanying picture are a few of the ammunition found lodged in the saddles of some of the cowboys. That none of the men were injured is considered miraculous.

Previous trouble had existed between the whites and reds at the ranch and Manager Bernstein had taken extra precautions in preventing bullets of any description entering the camp. However, the old-fashioned guns, having a large bore, that are most used, permitted most any kind of slug being rammed down them.

As a result of all this Manager Bernstein has been forced to attend all the workouts where there is fighting between his forces.

## VETERAN ACTOR WILL PLAY WITH UNIVERSAL COMPANY



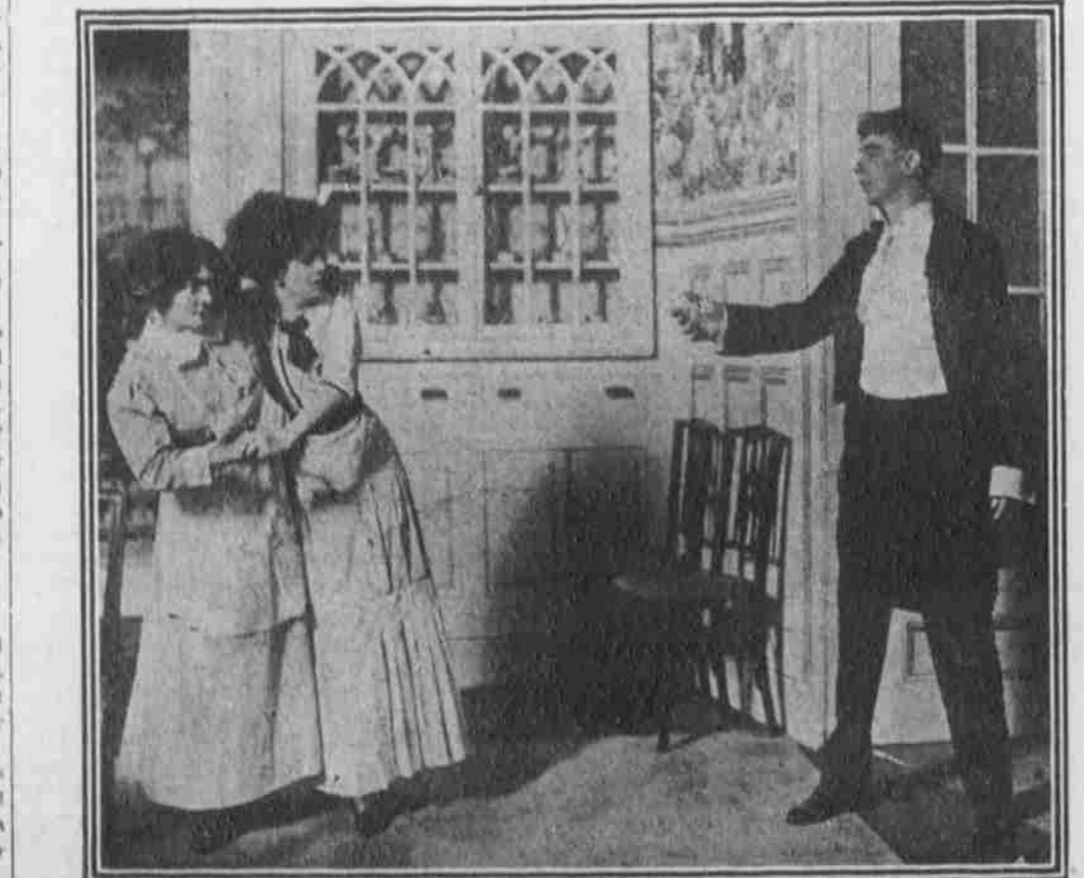
Genial John Stepping, who has a list of successes after his name as long as the River Nile, has been engaged by the Universal Film Manufacturing company to play character parts in Direc-

tor Albert E. Christie's company at the Pacific Coast studios.

Hailing from Philadelphia, he made his debut under Daniel Frohman in the old Lyceum stock company. He has been with E. H. Sothern and was in the original production of the "Prisoner of Zenda." He was a member of the New York Stock Company, and aside from Klaw & Erlanger productions, he has been with Olga Nethersale and Henrietta Crossman.

## STARTS IN SCHOOL

Like many another who has gained success on the stage, Miss Iva Shepard, playing leads opposite Edwin August with the Powers company, found her inspiration in a school entertainment. It was not a passing fancy with Miss Shepard. She went through the period of loitering at the stage door to catch a glimpse of her favorite leading man or woman. Finally, with parental objection overcome, she got "on" under the direction of William Bernard at the old Columbia theatre in Portland, Oregon.



Scene from "The Powers That Be," the Four-Act Political Play Presented by the Colonial Players at the Wexford, Which Opened Last Night.