

Amateurs To Perform; Further Stage Endeavors By Local Young People

Plays To Be Given Early This Month—
Now Rehearsing

GENERAL STAGE NOTES

News of Local Favorites — Sue Van Duser, Frances McHenry, Homer Miles and Others Doing Well—Mrs. Whitman's Song—Budget of Footlight Gossip

Two interesting amateur productions of American artists, so much so that the English actor now playing on Broadway was recently the only Englishman in the cast that was all American, from Ethel Levy downward. At every music hall you can be almost certain of finding two or three star turns that hail from this country. On the legitimate stage the two biggest successes of this moment in London are American plays, "Peg o' My Heart," with an American star, and "Potash and Perlmutter," with virtually an American cast—Montague Love in Dramatic Mirror.

Bringing Up Father—The well known cartoon comedy sketches "Bringing Up Father" have been a decided success in musical comedy. The show as it has resulted from being made from the cartoons, has never been given over this territory, but it is the expectation of Manager McKay, of the Opera House that it will be included in his early spring booking this season.

Unchained Woman—It is added to Oliver Morosco's list of plays intended for summer staging. The original manuscript of this play was lost when the Empress of Ireland was sunk in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It was in the keeping of Laurence Irving, who lost his life in that disaster.

People are tired, said Wilton Lackaye "of the sex and problem plays which are distorted out of all proportion and have no basis in real life, and that's the reason they like Trifle, so much now. As to my part—Svengali? Oh, it seems exactly the same to me now, as it did then. Of course, I hope I have learned something about acting in twenty years, but I can't say any change in the way I act the part."

Best Luck—Sue Van Duser, who was popular as leading woman for W. S. Harkins in St. John a few years ago, is now meeting with success with the Keith Stock in Portland. Mary Hall, a former Harkins actress here, is leading lady with the Davis Players, Pittsburg.

Richard O'Driscoll, the associate of Max Reinhardt, will remain in the states at least a part of next season and will present several productions in the matter of those which made the reputation of Max Reinhardt and himself in Berlin.

Elizabeth Brier, of "Watch Your Step," has leased a houseboat in the Harlow river near Port George, in which she will pass the summer, while playing at the New Amsterdam Theatre, New York.

Scored Success—Those who had the pleasure of hearing them when they sang in their first engagement in this city a few weeks ago were especially good, harmonious and well received. They did not for themselves in Fredericton. They did, in fact, leave a lasting impression of the excellent vocal talent possessed by St. John and for the benefit of Fredericton people and possibly that these are only a few of the good voices of St. John—there are many outside the club equally talented—imagine what they could do if they all got together!

Mack's Revue—The programmes of the Mack's Musical Revue at the Opera House were considerably improved this week. The choruses were especially good, reminding well, and bringing out the songs strongly and nicely. One of the best instances of this was shown in the opening medley given at the show the first part of the week. Two more bright bills are promised for next week.

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CARL BLACKWELL IN FEATURE FILMS

Popular Leading Man Follows
Others Well Known

NEWS OF THE STUDIOS

Frohman on Censorship; Operas in Film; Prohibition Play; Emmett Corrigan on Screen; John Bunny's Death

Carlisle Blackwell, who is a popular player with St. John audiences, has been engaged by the Jesse L. Lasky Feature Play Company for a long term, and will immediately begin work at the studios in Hollywood, Cal., on the film version of Harold MacGrath's story, "The Puppet Crown," in which he will appear with Ina Claire.

The engagement of Mr. Blackwell as a permanent member of the Lasky Stock company, corresponds to the engagement of Blanche Sweet, Ina Claire, Charlotte Walker, Fannie Ward, Victor Moore, and other celebrities.

Carlisle Blackwell made his first appearance on the screen with Kalem, and appeared under that management for three years, obtaining during this period a large personal following. After Mr. Blackwell left that organization he played a special engagement with the Famous Players in Edward S. Porter's "Spittree." He then went to California and organized his own company, in which he has appeared for the past few months.

The feature film "Prohibition" will probably play an important part in the preliminary campaign work for the presidential election of 1916, as already the Prohibition Party is preparing to use it in winning votes for the cause. In Washington this week, the exhibition and support of the picture as a vote-winning measure, was discussed and warmly recommended.

Dr. P. A. Baker, general superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of America, in charge of the "Dry" legislation at Washington, is actively promulgating a physical demonstration before the very doors of congress with thousands of men and women wearing white ribbons. One ardent and daring "dry" suggested the idea of giving an exhibition of "Prohibition" on the actual wall of the House of Congress.

The Popular Plays and Players Company have secured Emmett Corrigan as the star for a forthcoming release, yet to be chosen. Mr. Corrigan, one of the best known actors on the American stage, has recently been appearing with unusual success in vaudeville.

There is a plan afoot between certain film manufacturers and the directors of the Metropolitan Opera Company to picture famous operas with the stars appearing in them.

"The Strand Theatre of Chicago will occupy a site within the Loop district, and its cost will, it is said, exceed \$1,000,000. It will be devoted exclusively to motion pictures, with the finest musical accompaniment."

Said Gustav Frohman, in a recent address: "Although I am a producer of moving picture films," he said, "I am firmly convinced that the films and particularly those depicting social problems, should be subjected to a strict censorship. Stand by your censorship laws, and, in fact, make them more drastic. I regret to admit that several producers of given a free hand, would flood the city with foul, immoral pictures that would demoralize the youth. If you character, that perhaps is your right, but you have no right to permit men to give a sincere tribute to the character before your wives and children. Don't be so absorbed in the fine acting of the players that you lose sight of the theme."

John Bunny—Referring to the death of a prime local favorite, John Bunny, the New York Mirror says in part—

"The news of his death spread quickly, and the sorrow expressed universally by the people of New York, was a tribute to whose loss will be deeply felt. At the Vitaphone studios especially, among the associates for years, the news came as a great blow. The Screen Club, which was helped to establish, and where his popularity was attested by election to office on different occasions, also had a sorrowful loss."

John Bunny's entire screen career was spent in the ranks of the Vitaphone Company, which he joined five years ago. His last stage appearance was in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," at the Astor Theatre, when he played Bottom, one of his best remembered characterizations. Prior to that, Bunny had a long and successful stage appearance, which was followed by a screen or stage star, his appeal to all nationalities being one of the most remarkable features of his surprising career.

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JOHN BUNNY LEFT NO WILL;
INCOME \$1,000 A WEEK

John Bunny, celebrated movie actor, who died on last Monday at his home in Flatbush, Long Island, left no will. During the last four years his royalties and salary are supposed to have brought him about \$1,000 a week.

Elks Lodge of Manhattan carried out their usual services for the dead actor in their club house in New York. Burial took place on Thursday morning in Evergreen Cemetery.

KAISER SWINGS BIG STICK.
Sofia, May 1.—The Kaiser has telegraphed to his sister, the Queen of Greece, a detailed report of a German successes on the eastern and western battle fronts. He declared emphatically that at no point is the enemy able to advance and declares his conviction that the triumph of the German arms is in sight.

"Woe betide those who oppose us," is the closing statement. Inasmuch as the message was sent in clear language and not in code, diplomats believe that it was intended to influence the neutral countries it traversed en route to Greece.

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