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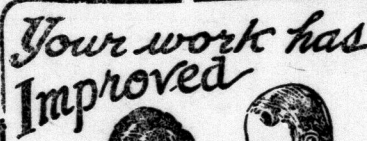
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COLOR AND TONE FILM PRODUCTION AT GRAND OPERA

Portmanteau Theatre Company Avoids Too Much Detail and Realism.

ARTISTS ARE CAPABLE

Dedicated to imagination, youth and the eternal spirit of play the Portmanteau Theatre Company which, under the personal direction of Stuart Walker, opened a two-day engagement in the Grand Opera House last night, does not require elaborate scenic investiture to produce its effects. In fact it is one of Mr. Walker's beliefs that there is too much detail, too much realism on the stage of today. He aims to produce his effects by color and line, by presenting his plays so that their atmosphere is not so realistic that the beholder imagines he is living the scenes he sees enacted, nor does he forget that he is a theatre, and that it all is phantasy or pretension. This is the Walker idea. He works it out with a company of rarely capable artists, unassisted by the ordinary stage trappings, depending upon the strength of characterization and wonderful lighting effects for its success. The result is a series of delightfully charming and impressively rich pictures, filled with masses of color and tone, but blurred in outline. The audience in the Grand Opera House last evening enjoyed it as a novelty and, to London, an innovation.

Last evening's bill-of-fare consisted of three short one-act playlets and one three act production. Practically no scenery was used, the company building what might be termed a box stage within a stage, and depending for the most part upon simple back-drops. Indeed, in two of the earlier playlets the scenery was set while the audience watched.

The first playlet, "The Murderers," by Lord Dunsany is bizarre in the extreme. Two workmen meet in a public house where the brother of one has previously been murdered. The brother recounts the story of the tragedy and reiterates his determination to aid in the capture of the murdered man matter who he may be. Enters a detective in the guise of a third workman who, by deduction, elicits that one of the two is the culprit.

Brother Relents. Then comes the moment of the arrest, but instead of assisting in the processes of the law, the brother of the victim aids his friend to strangle the officer and the corpse is left on the stage. Gripping and grotesque, but powerful and exceedingly well done.

"Nevertheless," the second of the collection, is a little childish sketch having for its characters a fourteen-year-old boy, his younger sister, and a burglar. The workmen meet in a public house where the brother of one has previously been murdered. The brother recounts the story of the tragedy and reiterates his determination to aid in the capture of the murdered man matter who he may be. Enters a detective in the guise of a third workman who, by deduction, elicits that one of the two is the culprit.

The third, "The Medicine Show," presents three typical characters of a southern village, the motif being the unwillingness of men of their type to work. Dialogue smart and humorous, characters well drawn and capably presented.

The closing play, from the pen of Lord Dunsany, "The Gods of the Mountains," is like nothing so much as a tale from the Arabian Nights, fantastic, but carrying a powerful moral lesson—the penalty that inevitably follows upon deception. In this seven beggars impersonate gods to prey upon the superstition and credulity of the people of a city whose generosity has not been marked.

Punished By Gods. Success attends them until the gods, enraged with the blasphemous imposture, visit them with punishment so terrible and so well presented that the audience leaves the theatre in a mental maze, wondering at the complete artistry and the simplicity of the entire entertainment.

The closing scene is the most remarkable of its kind ever seen by the writer and probably by the great majority of those who witnessed it last night. By the power of the angry gods the seven impostors are turned from men to green jade idols, assuming the color of the deities whose identity they assumed. The whole is accomplished by weird lighting. The effect cannot be adequately described. The human or godly flesh loses its warm tints and becomes a ghastly translucent green, while the facial expressions and stiff posturings are startling in their terrible realism.

George Somnes, who plays the leads in the two Dunsany plays "The Murderers" and "The Gods of the Mountains," in this regard, ranks with the best. Not even that great actor, Sir Johnson Forbes Robinson, can surpass him for mellow tone and perfect elocution, and it is a distinct pleasure to hear him render his beautiful lines.

Matured Actor. Aldrich Bowker is a sterling matured actor. His work throughout was artistic in the extreme. Whether as Tom, the brother of the murdered man in the first playlet, the burglar in the second, the village gossip in "The Medicine Show" or the bibulous beggar turned god in the final production his every speech and action carried the hall mark of quality. The other members of a

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large company are all artists. Today at the matinee performance the company will present plays for children, and tonight will close with "The Book of Job." This is a production of rare beauty and artistry which has received the unqualified endorsement of the clergy. In it the character of Job is played by Mr. Somnes. The Dunsany plays presented last night, aside from their dramatic values, are remarkable, too, for the beauty of their lines. "The Gods of the Mountains," in particular, is a noble work of ironic comedy, weird, grim, picturesque, colorful and thrilling, and a fine example of the functioning of the law of poetic justice. The presentation readily reveals the great beauties of the composition. Special music is presented by an instrumental trio. Altogether a splendid

did company in a series of most remarkable productions. It is doubtful if London will see its like again for a long time.

TORRENTIAL RAINS CAUSE MANY FLOODS IN ITALY

Associated Press Despatch. Rome, Nov. 30.—Torrential rains have caused a number of rivers in northeastern Italy, including the Tagliamento and the Isonzo to overflow. Large tracts of country are under water and four bridges have collapsed. In Gradisca the streets were turned into shallow canals, and in Trieste the lower parts of many houses and public buildings were flooded.

COUNCIL WILL ANNOUNCE DECISION IN MURDER CASE

Canadian Press Despatch. Montreal, Nov. 30.—The case of Raoul Brodeur of Quebec, lying under sentence of death for murder, has been brought before the cabinet council for final consideration and its decision will be announced on Saturday.

TRIO WANTED FOR SHOOTING IN AUTO-MISHAP, ONE DIES

New York, Nov. 30.—A speeding motor car, carrying three men accused by the police of shooting to death, David Tekh, notorious member of Kid Dropper's gang in an East Side gun battle Wednesday night, collided with a Long Island train near St. James, L. I., today, resulting in the death of one of the men and the serious injury of the others.

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