

MERRY WIDOW IS HERE IN PICTURE

Imperial Crowds Charmed
With Film Story and Music

Highly Artistic Production Made
Among Pretty Scenes and Wins Much Favor

"The Merry Widow" as a music story has long since risen to the rank of standard opera and its lovely strains, notably the dreamy waltz and tenor solo "Vilja" are frequently heard in high-class programs. When Frana Lehar, Viennese composer, gave the world this poignant romance in song little did he dream, perhaps, of its being glorified into the sumptuously clothed story as screened at Imperial Theatre yesterday. From a sketchy libretto for operatic purposes Metro-Goldwyn, under the magic touch of the European director, Erich Von Stroheim, has developed the fiction of the vivacious widow and Prince Danilo into a dazzling love-story that takes ten full reels to tell.

To sit in the luxurious Imperial, as thousands did yesterday, and see this artistic photoplay whilst orchestra and organ discoursed a program of light operatic quality charmingly appropriate to the scenes—with the ever recurring waltz theme "Vilja" and now and again the majestic sweep of the Merry Widow waltz—must have been to people of artistic tastes a delicious brand of holiday entertainment. Moving pictures are often so surprising that reasoned fans practically ceased to make special comment upon them but yesterday's picture was a surprise from many points of view.

If one were to search movie-dom all over a more dashing, daring, better-looking and impetuous lover could, perhaps, not have been found than dark-eyed John Gilbert, dare-devil Lethario of all galvane idols. Mae Murray, who has gained appreciations and deprecations from many for her past butterfly performances, assumed an entirely different kind of role as "The Merry Widow" and under von Stroheim's direction much of her flightiness was eliminated happily so. She and Mr. Gilbert made a wonderful combination and were ably supported by Roy D'Arcy, George Fawcett, Tul-

ly Marshall, Josephine Crowell and other favorites. "The Merry Widow" as pictured is an airy-fairy series of the prettiest scenes imaginable. It is illustrative of the picturesque Balkan country in which the story is laid and is worked up with all the mechanical devices and artistic ingenuity at the command of a genius of the von Stroheim quality. As reel upon reel sped across the silversheet hundreds of scenes and settings confronted the eyes of the watchers, appearing as if it were a gallery of staid engravings or oil paintings. Nothing quite so pretty has come out of Metro-Goldwyn production sources for a long time.

"The Merry Widow" is to run today only. It is a picture far above the ordinary as yesterday's patrons of the Imperial will attest. It has some rather peppery scenes where perhaps exacting censors would assert their authority but considering the nature of the story and the atmosphere in which it is lived, nothing downright indecent has been attempted. Tomorrow the Imperial changes its program for Constance Talmadge's uproarious love affair entitled "Her Sister From Paris" and the favorite comedian Lloyd Hamilton in his newest hit "The Movie."

The Imperial's New Year's bill will be Jackie Coogan in "Old Clothes" a companion picture to "The Junk Man."

GOOD PLAYERS ON SCREEN AT UNIQUE

Pat O'Malley, Wallace Beery and Wanda Hawley in "Let Women Alone"

There is a timely lesson for the sterner sex humorously presented in "Let Women Alone" the feature at Unique. The picture is splendidly acted by an exceptional cast, and although it is rich in thrills and contains some intensely dramatic moments, at core it is a comedy, and as funny situations and new bits of comedy business flashed on the screen last night, there was hearty laughter.

Ethel Wales gives a superb performance as Ma Benham, whose "go-getter" son, Tom, brings her to the big city and commands her to lay off the broom and washboard and be a lady of leisure. But instantly soon palls and Ma is miserable. So she dusts off the broom and gets busy, but Susan, hired by Tom to see that Ma keeps her hands folded, is close at her heels and spoils her fun. However, Ma stands just as much, and then she takes the reins and makes things hum.

Pat O'Malley plays a well-meaning

IRON HORSE IS BIG PICTURE AT PALACE

Historic and Thrilling Tale of Railroad Construction is Fox Feature

William Fox has again smashed records with a great, realistic drama, "The Iron Horse," which is at the Palace Theatre.

In "The Iron Horse" old Brandon, town surveyor, surveying through to Eternity, is considered more than a bit off his head by the good folks of Main street, Springfield, Ill., because he day-dreams of an irresistible iron trail blazed with blood and soul-sweat by the heroes of that last frontier, through deserts and Indian-infested plains, and hurdling the barrier mountains of the Great Divide—the Transcontinental Railroad.

Through this great epic story of the railroad conquest of the golden west, runs an equally great love story. George O'Brien scores the merited triumph of his career as Dave Brandon, pony express rider. There are tense scenes aplenty. The large supporting cast is all of stellar calibre, including Madge Bellamy, Gladys Hulette, J. Farrell MacDonald, Francis Powers, Fred Kohler, Cyril Chadwick and Will Walling. "The Iron Horse" is an important document of permanent historical value. It will be shown twice tonight, at 7 and 8.30.

BUCK JONES' NEW ONE FINE WESTERN

Is Shown on Gaiety Screen in "Durant of the Bad Lands"

Buck Jones' latest starring picture, "Durant of the Bad Lands," which opened last night at the Gaiety Theatre, is undoubtedly the best western thriller that this hard-fighting cowboy has made. Directed by Lynn Reynolds, maker of "The Lone Star Ranger" and "The Deadwood Coach," this production is injected with the spirit of the West and is full of action, pathos and humor, from the first title to the fadeout.

The story, by Malibelle Heikes Justice, involves an alleged outlaw and the daughter of a desert recluse. Into this pretty romance is injected the menace of an unscrupulous sheriff, a gold robbery and other intrigue. While some of the incidents save later western productions, the treatment has a freshness and originality that holds the spectators' attention throughout.

Marian Nixon, sweet and demure as ever, gives a splendid interpretation of the daughter of the desert. Malcolm Waite, as the sheriff, is satisfactory. Others in the cast are Fred De Silva, Luke Cosgrove, George Lesley, insurance solicitor with his usual spirit and charm, and Wanda Hawley is exceedingly sweet as the lovely young mother who captures his heart. Wallace Beery, shorn of his usual villainy, is screamingly funny as an old-tough captain, and J. Farrell MacDonald, who rose to fame overnight in "The Iron Horse," has put aside the red flannel shirt and stubby beard of the past and appears in this picture as a man of affairs.

A hearty laugh, a few real thrills and an all around good time are provided in "Let Women Alone."

EAST LYNNE IS AT QUEEN SQ. THEATRE

Noted Stage Play Now on The Screen With Story Kept Intact

East Lynne is being shown at the Queen Square Theatre and will be the attraction for the last time tonight. It is a William Fox feature and has preserved the original plot and flavor of the popular story intact. When Emmett Flynn was entrusted with the direction of this picture at the West Coast Studio, he was instructed to follow as closely as possible the play.

Alma Rubens, as Lady Isabel, is the member of the cast called upon to do the difficult "deadish" scene. There were many eyes moist when this scene was thrown upon the screen. Edmund Lowe has the other leading role in "East Lynne," while the supporting cast includes Lou Tellegen, Frank Kenan, Marjorie Daw, Lydia Knott, Belle Bennett, Leslie Fenton, Martha Mattox, Harry Seymour, Virginia Marshall and Richard Headrick.

East Lynne has been a very popular production on the stage, and its appearance in picture is an event of interest.

GIVE PLAYLET.

A Christmas tree and a very nice program were enjoyed on Sunday afternoon in Holy Trinity Sunday school by the pupils of the school. The program included a recitation "Welcome" by Catherine McGuire; a playlet entitled, "Choosing the best day of the year," which was presented by 28 little girls and the singing of Adeline Fiedles by 10 boys. After the program Humphrey Sheehan appeared in the part of Santa Claus and gave each of the children a special treat from the gayly decorated Christmas tree.

QUEEN SQUARE

Today—Final Showing.
EAST LYNNE
The Greatest Favorite of the stage now on the screen.

NOTE—New Year's Day, 4 Shows, 2, 3.30, 7, 8.45.

CANTEEN DANCE

NEW YEAR'S DAY
Afternoon Evening
2.30, 5.30, 8.30, 1.30
PYTHIAN CASTLE

All Tickets 50c.
On Sale at
BOND AND WHITE'S

THE ORCHESTRA

Piano—Mabel Wilkes
Banjo—Don Davidson
Sax.—Ralph Oatey
Banjo—Geo. Brander.
Violin—Herb. Webber
Traps—Jack Cavanaugh.

GOOD MUSIC AND LOTS OF IT.
28109-12-30

ACTORS OPERATE OWN PRODUCTION

Get Initial Outlay Back in Six London Performances, Says Manager

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Thirty-four actors and actresses are making a gallant attempt to run a play by themselves in a London theatre.

Called The Commonwealth Players, they are giving "Abraham Lincoln" at matinees at the Prince's Theatre, Shaftesbury avenue, without any backing except their own personal efforts. "So far we have given five performances and just about got back our initial outlay," said W. J. Rea, who is at the head of the company. "We have averaged \$250 a matinee, which we consider to be very hopeful business."

There has been no balance to share between us yet, but, with luck, we may be able to have a share-out at the end of this week."

The Commonwealth Players may continue at the Prince's for a fortnight to come, according to Mr. Rea, and they are trying to find a theatre where they can do the play in the evenings as well as in the afternoons.

SHOOT 2 SONS AND SELF.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Mrs. Catherine Cumbres, 32 years of age, of Queens Village, in a fit of despondency shot her eight months' old baby Alfred and her four year old son Richard and then fired a bullet into her own breast today. All three are in a hospital and reported dying as a result of the wounds.

DRAMATIC SURRENDER

LONDON, Dec. 29.—A dramatic surrender to the police was made by Albert Manning, a boiler-maker, whose wife, Elizabeth, was found dead from strangulation at Bolton recently. While the country was being searched for him, Manning walked into the Bolton Police Office and gave himself up as the murderer.

20 BABIES, 18 OTHERS SAVED

JERSEY CITY, N. J., Dec. 28.—Twenty babies and eighteen maternity patients today were carried to safety in freezing weather by police and firemen, when fire partially destroyed the wooden building housing the Hope-women's Home and Maternity Hospital of the Salvation Army.

IMPERIAL--



with MAE MURRAY as the Widow JOHN GILBERT as the Prince

TODAY ONLY!

House Packed Yesterday
All the world was at her feet—Only the man she loved stood aloof. Pride played the tyrant over his love—Then in one flaming moment of drama, he offered his very life for her.

Here is the greatest romance ever screened—the gorgeous tale of the Merry Widow and Prince Danilo which, as a stage marvel, captivated the civilized world.

MATINEE CONTEST

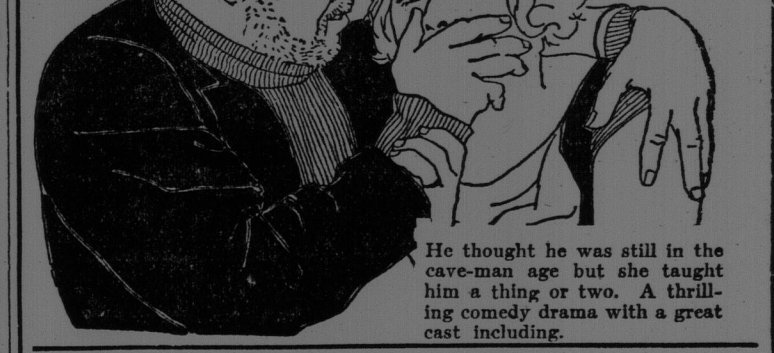
Every Child Has a Chance! Upholstered Toggles, Double Runner, Power Boat, Doll Carriage, Skis, Doll's Trousseau, Skates, Etc., Etc.

AWARDS ON THURSDAY

Wonderfully Fine Music
4—Shows Today—4
USUAL PRICES

UNIQUE

Today



PAT O'MALLEY, WANDA HAWLEY, and WALLACE BEERY

"LET WOMEN ALONE"

From Saturday Evening Post Story "On the Shelf"

Also PATHE REVIEW and "THE PACEMAKERS"

"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD"

Added Special—Friday and Saturday Matinees

Today-OPERA HOUSE--

A GREAT ATTRACTION—EVERYBODY SHOULD SEE IT.

IRENE RICH, HUNTLEY GORDON And a Notable Cast.

MY WIFE AND I

From the Novel by Harriet Beecher Stowe.

THE ROSSLEY KIDDIES

"The Best Yet" is the Verdict of All."

PLEASE NOTE HOURS AND PRICES
Matinee Screenings at 2.30; Kiddies on 3.45, 10c, 15c, 25c, 35c.
Evening Screenings at 7.15; Kiddies on 8.30, 15c, 25c, 35c.

PLEASE COME EARLY AND AVOID THE GREAT RUSH

PALACE

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY

Zane Grey's WILD HORSE MESA

JACK HOLT - NOAH BEERY
BILLIE DOVE - DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, JR.
MATINEE WEDNESDAY

OPERA HOUSE

Two Nights, January 4-5
ACADIA COLLEGE
Players Present
Famous Play
"THE GOOSE HANGS HIGH"

Seat sale and exchange opens Dec. 31st. 50c and 75c.

Venetian Gardens

FRIDAY—NEW YEAR'S NIGHT 9 to 12
SATURDAY AS USUAL
Afternoon 4 to 6, Night 9 to 12
DON'T FORGET NEW YEAR'S NIGHT

BAND TONIGHT

ARENA
The Music is Wonderful—Ice Perfect.
Admission, 25c.—Children, 15c.
Have a Skating Party at the Arena Tonight.
This Rink is Noted for Good Skaters. Speed Skating After Band.
Ladies' and Gents' Skates to Hire. Phone Arena M. 5067.
Girls! Miss Saint John and the Princesses for 1926 to Be Chosen Soon.
Hold New Year's Night Open for Hockey—Moncton vs. Saint John at 8 P. M.

One of Many Unsolicited Testimonials!

Sufferer from Chronic Constipation and Headaches Finds Only Cure in Dr. Watson's Tonic

Up to about nine months ago, I was so run down in health, that I began to despair of recovery. I suffered constantly from constipation and headaches. I lost all faith in medicine, as any relief I got from them was only for a few days. I was then told by a friend who had experienced similar troubles to my own, recommended me to try Dr. Watson's Tonic, as it had cured him of his troubles. I commenced taking it forthwith and am pleased to bear testimony to its wonderful efficiency. I am clear of headaches, my bowels move regular, my appetite is good, and I owe it as a duty to myself and my fellow-sufferers to recommend its use.

(Signed) JOHN T. METCALFE,
823 Ontario Street, Toronto.

DR. WATSON'S TONIC ALE OR STOUT

If you have any difficulty securing this, write Dept. 1.
M. Allen & Co., Bond Bldg., Toronto.

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



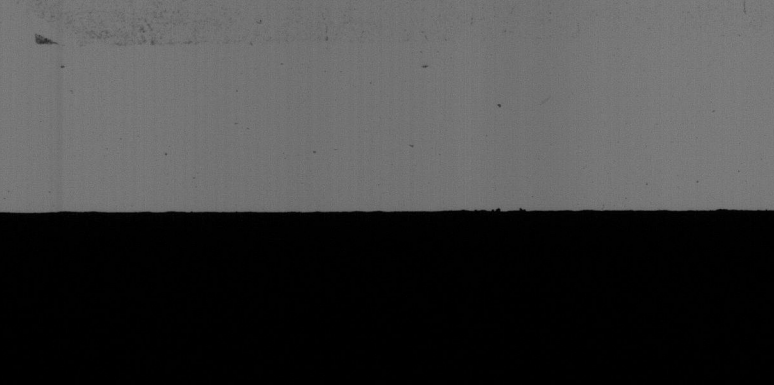
BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



DOG-GONE!



SALESMAN SAM



CHRISTMAS IS OVER FOR JUMBO



By BLOSSER



By MARTIN



By SWAM

