

Chicago Stage to Celebrate 'Mikado' Anniversary

Famous Opera Reaches Half Century Mark

Special Costumes for Birthday Production by D'Oily Carte Troupe.

By Charles Collins.

THE leading event on this week's theatrical calendar will be the staging of "The Mikado" in a new style of Japanese costume [early eighteenth century] by the D'Oily Carte Opera company of London, in celebration of the world's fiftieth anniversary. This occasion is scheduled for next Thursday night in the Erlanger theater and should be a decidedly festive affair. "The Mikado" may be an old story to most of us, but it is a masterpiece whose half century mark is worth celebrating.

The thirty-second degree Gilbert and Sullivan addict is likely to take a superior attitude toward this supreme high link in the repertory of his cult; to deprecate its popularity and to reserve his enthusiasm for the pieces that have not been overworked at the box office, such as "The Yeomen of the Guard," "Patience," or the completely neglected "Princess Ida." Nevertheless, "The Mikado" is the soul of the Savoyard creed, the one true classic in the catalog. Its popularity is based on its virtues, not on its defects, and there is an immortal ecstasy of amusement in its happily blended music and libretto. It was destined for survival at its birth as a unique achievement of the light lyric stage.

18th Century Japanese Fashions.

For orientalist there will be interest in the fact that the new costume follows Japanese styles of the year 1720, when the land of Nippon was exceedingly gay in the matter of dress. Charles Ricketts, the Royal Academy artist who is scene and costume designer for the O'Dily Carte company, is a collector of Japanese art and has chosen this period as best suited to a gala anniversary staging. Incidentally the costumes do not have the kimono effect that has been stereotyped in "Mikado" productions of the past.

To glance back over the first week of the D'Oily Carte visitation: The company proved itself, in four changes of bill, as an admirable organization. Its singing is excellent light opera work; its treatment of Gilbertian character is mellow and authoritative; its settings and costumes represent the richest traditions of Victorian stagecraft; and its orchestral interpretation of the scores, under the direction of an alert and gifted young maestro named Isidore Godfrey, is in the best Savoyard style. These works, essentially British of humor and mood, seem to acquire a special mellowness when performed by English players, and the D'Oily Cartes, with half century of practice in their tradition, have exactly the right method, which includes an effortless precision and clarity in the department technically known as "diction." Although adept in song, they are not careless about the verbal content of their lyrics. They use their art upon the first law of the stage, which is: Communicate the words.

New Deal in

"The Gondoliers," with which the week opened, illustrates one of the happiest aspects of Gilbert's satire



BALLERINA IN OPERA COMIQUE

Lisa Parova is the premiere danseuse of the New York Opera Comique company which will make its Chicago debut in the Auditorium theater March 18. Three night operas will be staged in English—Offenbach's "Tales of Hoffman" and "Vie Parisienne," and "The Bat," by the second Strauss of Vienna.

(White Photo.)

—its applicability to Anglo-Saxon culture and manners of the present. Although exceedingly topical, his humor carries beyond the Victorian era into present day affairs. Thus we discovered with glee that the new deal in the mythical realm of Barataria, although merely a republican reaction against aristocratic snobbery, can be applied to certain aspects of the new deal in the realm of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

For example, this lyric about an old king, ironically sung by the Grand Inquisitor:

*Good-temper triumphed in his face,
And in his heart he found a place
For all the erring human race
And every wretched fellow
When he had Rhenish wine to drink
It made him very sad to think
That some, at junket or at junk,
Must be content with toddy.
He wished all men as rich as he
[And he was rich as rich could be]
So to the top of every tree
Promoted everybody.*

This Gilbert and Sullivan season has caused me to expand my knowledge of the subject with two discoveries. First, there is a Gilbert and Sullivan association in this country, with offices at 125 West

45th street, New York, which publishes a quarterly magazine devoted to essays by eminent and scholarly fans. Second, the word "timonier" in one of the "Gondolier" lyrics, new to me until last week, means "helmsman"; comes out of Old French into the small type stuff at the bottom of the pages in the recent editions of Webster, and is obsolete.

"Flowers of Forest." Katharine Cornell has started rehearsals of John Van Druten's new drama, "Flowers of the Forest." It will be staged in New York during the week of April 8. It gives Miss Cornell the first modern role she has played since she appeared in "Allan Corn" two years ago.

Chicago Playbills

OPENING:

"The Green Bay Tree," drama, by Upton Players; Chicago Woman's Club theater; March 12, 13, 14.

CONTINUED:

D'Oily Carte Opera company, in Gilbert and Sullivan repertory; Erlanger theater; second and final week.

"The First Legion," drama, with Bert Lytell; Harris theater; auspices of American Theater society; second week.

Monte Carlo Ballet Russe; Auditorium theater; this afternoon and evening; final performance.

"Her First False Step," melodrama revival; Show Boat Dixiana, north branch at Diversely parkway; second week.

COMING:

"Three Men on a Horse," comedy; Harris or Selwyn theater; opens March 31.

"Rain from Heaven," drama, with Jane Cowl and John Halliday; fifth American Theater society booking; Erlanger theater; opens April 1.

"Life Begins at 4:10," revue; Grand Opera house; opens April 20.

"Mary of Scotland," drama, with Helen Hayes; sixth American Theater society booking; Erlanger theater; opens May 6.

WEEKLY CHANGES.

Palace theater: Vaudeville and cinema; French Casino revue. Chicago theater: Vaudeville and cinema; Jack Benny, headliner. State-Lake theater: Vaudeville and cinema; Eddie Hanley, headliner.

RUBENQUE:

Star and Garter theater, burlesque; Ada Leonard in "Parisian Parade."

FOR CHILDREN:

"Red Riding Hood," juvenile play; Goodman theater; Saturday mornings, March 16, 23.

LITTLE THEATER:

"The Head of the Family," drama, by Katherine Clugston; Goodman School of Acting students; Monday to Thursday.

Vassar Play by Author of 'First Legion'

EMMETT LAVERY, who wrote "The First Legion," the play about the results now at the Harris theater, has written another play called "Daisy Chain," which is to be produced in the spring. Here the author uses an entire feminine cast. As the title suggests, "Daisy Chain" is a play about Vassar college.

Lavery has been Poughkeepsie, where he is city editor of the Courier. He is an alumnus of Fordham college. For four years he was president of the board of aldermen in his own town. Then he gave up politics and became a newspaper man.

He had little difficulty in placing his first play. Bert Lytell read it and believed in it. One of Lytell's closest friends was a cotton broker named Phil Green. One night Lytell was a guest at one of Green's parties. He brought the manuscript of "The First Legion" with him and insisted upon reading the play to the guests. The result was the partnership of Bert Lytell and Phil Green as impresarios.

"The First Legion" marks Green's first venture as a theatrical manager and Mr. Lytell's debut as an actor-manager.

Famous Plays.

Three plays which have made history in the American theater in this decade are now being presented in New York City: "Rain," with Talulah Bankhead; "The Green Pastures," with Richard E. Harrison, and "The Barretts of Wimpole Street," with Katharine Cornell.



THE PALMER HOUSE presents its NEW WINTER REVIEW EVERY EVENING in the EMPIRE ROOM with TED WEEMS' MUSIC NO COVER CHARGE

DINNER \$2.50 Minimum charges, Dinner \$2.50, Supper \$2.00. (Sat., Sun. and Hol.—Supper \$2.50) LUNCHEON DANCING Every Saturday, 1 to 4. Luncheon—\$1.35, plus tax. Minimum charge includes luncheon only

New Terrace Garden Show; Cabaret Acts

Vernon Rickard Joins Hotel Morrison Troupe; Hal Young at Stevens.

LEONARD HICKS, managing director of the Hotel Morrison, presented a new show in the Terrace Garden last Friday evening featuring Stan Myers and his orchestra, the Virginia O'Brien dancing girls, the two Ellens (Hirschfelder and Murtaugh) in a specialty dance; Edna De Worth, acrobatic dancer; a new dance trio, Orville Stam and Martha LaRue with Repert Royce, and Vernon Rickard, a young singing player from the movies and radio.

Stan Myers gives "The Farmer Takes a Wife" with the O'Brien girls and members of the orchestra. The ballet appears in an "Under Sea" number, with the entire cast taking part. Miss DeWorth offers a series of new dances. Rickard's singing is a prominent feature of the bill.

Last Friday evening marked the one-hundredth night of musical program presented by Keith Beecher and his orchestra in the continental room at the Stevens hotel. A special feature of the occasion was the debut of Hal Young, romantic tenor. He is known to playgoers through appearances in "The Student Prince." He has played leading roles in "Great Temptation," "Le Maîtres Affaires," "Rosalie," "The New Moon," "A Night in Venice," "Naughty Marietta," and "Artists and Models."

The show also includes Wes Adams and Lisa, a dance team.

Music and dancing typical of Russia and Spain are found in the floor show in the walnut room of the Bismarck hotel. Leonard Keller and George Nieldoff are the leaders of the program which is called "Carnival of Gypsies." The Russian numbers are presented at 7:30 and 11:30 p. m. The Spanish show is offered at 10 p. m. The performers include Chita Chavez, Lenora Felden and Pola Gribova, dancers, and Janina Laboda, Angella Tricome, Leonardo Balsano, and Maxim Kosteluck, singers. Both Keller and Nieldoff contribute solos. The former plays "Dark Eyes," "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," and "Turkish Street Song" on the violin. The latter sings the torador song from "Carmen" and "The Volga Boatman."

Art Jarrett and Eleanor Holm are leaders of a new floor show in the Hotel Sherman's College Inn. Miss Holm, best known as a champion swimmer, proves that she has a good singing voice. Featured with the Jarretts are Chaz Chase, eccentric comedian, and Olive Olsen, singing tap dancer.

The eight dancing debutantes and Danny and Eddie from Paris are other entertainers.

The annual St. Patrick's party, featuring Irish entertainment, will be held at the Edgewater Beach hotel next Saturday night. Herbie Kay's orchestra has broken all attendance records for the current season. Bill Hogan and his "Hollywood Californians" will replace Kay on April 20, the date for the opening of the annual spring blossom festival. With Hogan will be Everett West, tenor, and the "Three Kittens," dancing girls.

Elaine Manz, a dancer, has been added to the group of floor show entertainers at Henry's New York Bar, where Earl Rickard is still master of ceremonies. She is featured with Julia Lyons, a singer of "torch" ballads.

Lenten Slump.

Only four new plays are scheduled in New York between March 11 and 31. The Theater Union will stage "Black Pit" on March 20, and Dmitri Ostrov is preparing "No Mind of Her Own" for March 28. John Canavan's "Woman of the Soil," and Lee Shubert's third venture with "The Face at the Window," formerly called "A Trip to Pressburg," are the others.

Every Year One Great Band Comes To The Front! This Year It's

KAY KYSER AND HIS SENSATIONAL ORCHESTRA NOW PLAYING AT THE NEW

BLACKHAWK RANDOLPH AT WARREN Dinner \$1.50 Plus a Grand Floor Show

SHOW BOAT DIXIANA In River Diversion Troup, Bridge—2200 West MAT. TODAY 2:15—3:45—5:00, Incl. Tax TONIGHT 8:15—9:45—11:15, Incl. Tax "HER FIRST FALSE STEP" All Seats Reserved—Rehears. Ph. Arrangements 9700

Subscribe for the Tribune

SEEN ON TWO SCREENS



This is Miss Florence Rice, pretty daughter of Grantland Rice. She has been ill lately but is well again and back at work. You can see her in "Best Man Wins," at the State-Lake, and in "Under Pressure," at the Oriental theater.

Vaudeville Bills

"HELLO PARIS," the second revue from the French Casino, continues another week at the Palace theater. The show runs for about an hour. The cast of 100 includes A. Robbins, the Pierrots, the Viere Brothers, the Andree Trio, Spadolini, and Flora Duane.

Al Kvals has returned to the Uptown theater for his third engagement. He presents an entirely new stage revue with his orchestra. His company includes a Chez Paree ballet and Allen and Kent.

The vaudeville program at the State-Lake theater this week includes: Edna Hanley, with Louise Gay, in "Anything for Laughs"; Abbott and Hobby, assisted by Sylvia Brill, in a sketch called "I Want Women"; the Rhythm Redheads, a team of singing girls; Blmer Cleve, of various Broadway revues, comedian; Maginn, tight wire performer, and Verne Buck and the State-Lake ballet.

The Chicago theater's stage show this week contains a new singing team in Edward Davies, baritone, and Vivian Della Chiesa, soprano.

AMUSEMENTS.

ORCHESTRA HALL HENRY E. VOEGELI Presents HOROWITZ TODAY AT 3:30

ORCHESTRA HALL CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Frederick Stock Conductor TUESDAY AT 2:15 THUR. EVE' FRI. AFT'N

ORCHESTRA HALL BURTON HOLMES WED. 8:15 FRI. 8:15 SAT. 2:30 PICTURED IMPRESSIONS OF ITALY FROM THE ALPS TO SICILY ALL IN COLOR AND MOTION PRICES: \$1.10 and \$1.50, including Tax 500 GOOD SEATS 40c.

ORCHESTRA HALL MONDAY EVE, MAR. 18 HENRY E. VOEGELI Announces Recital by the Amazing RUTH SLENCZYNSKI Phenomenal Child Pianist Tickets \$1, \$1.50, \$2, \$2.50, Plus Tax

ORCHESTRA HALL HENRY E. VOEGELI Announces HATHAN MILSTEIN VIOLIN RECITAL Tickets Thurs. 5c, \$1, \$1.50, \$2, Plus Tax

AUDITORIUM SUN. AFT., MARCH 31 INTO SCHIPPA FOR GOOD SEATS ORDER BY MAIL NOW! Harry Zeller, 431 E. Wabash, Webster 4491 Tickets, \$2.75, \$2.25, \$1.65, \$1.10, 85c, 50c

SHOW BOAT DIXIANA In River Diversion Troup, Bridge—2200 West MAT. TODAY 2:15—3:45—5:00, Incl. Tax TONIGHT 8:15—9:45—11:15, Incl. Tax "HER FIRST FALSE STEP" All Seats Reserved—Rehears. Ph. Arrangements 9700

Irish Drama Pursued by Film Offers

By Hugh Curran.

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.] UBLIN.—[By Mail.]—The future of the Abbey theater would appear to be in some peril if the reports which have reached Dublin are correct. The No. 1 company of the Abbey is at present in the United States, where apparently it has had something in the nature of a triumphal progress from one city to another. Now comes the rumor that tempting offers have been made to the company by Hollywood to film some of the plays which have won fame for the players.

If, as is reported, such an offer has been accepted, it will mean that the No. 1 company will, on conclusion of its present tour, be held up at Hollywood for many months. This may have serious repercussions on the fate of the Abbey theater itself, for it is highly improbable that the Free State government will continue to vote a subsidy to the theater if, as seems likely to be the case, its doors remain closed for considerable periods.

The Abbey theater is at present enjoying a visit from the Ulster Players, who have been playing "Thompson on Terra Firma" to good houses. Another piece on the program is "Catherine," an Ulster play of 1798. It is the first time that any attempt has been made to dramatize the personality of Lord Castlereagh, who was one of those prominently associated with the passing of the act of union of 1800, which it has been the aim of patriotic nationalism ever since to repeal.

The play, written by Thomas Carnduff, makes an attempt to portray the man apart from political prejudices, and has in part succeeded, although some critics complain that it is too melodramatic.

[Barry Fitzgerald, chief comedian of the Abbey Theater company, has signed a contract for a few weeks of his work at the conclusion of the present American tour.]

Ed Wynn's Next.

Ed Wynn will leave his radio work in June and spend three months preparing a Broadway show for next season. He will write the libretto.

Intimate Revue.

Tom Weatherly has announced that Broadway can expect an intimate revue from him late this season. The show will take its general cue from the three "Little Shows" with which he was associated, but will have a different title.

Leontovich in London.

Eugene Leontovich, recently in "Bitter Oleander," has sailed for London to take a role in Gilbert Miller's production of "Fogwatch." Sir Cedric Hardwicke will be seen opposite her.

AMUSEMENTS.

HARRIS MATINEES TONIGHT WED. AND SAT. A GENUINE TRIUMPH! BERT LYTELL In Emmet Lavery's Ideal Lenten Play THE FIRST LEGION

- "An exciting play... Well-nigh perfectly presented... Merits the attention of all theatergoers."—Gail Borden, Times.
- "Witty play... Possesses a healthy sense of humor... Positively clairvoyant cast."—Ashton Stevens, American.
- "A dramatic sensation... First and last a good show."—Claudia Cassidy, Journal of Commerce.
- "Primarily a play and a good one."—Carol Frink, Herald-Examiner.
- "A dramatic job done with taste and intelligence."—Lloyd Lewis, News.
- "A play of unusual subject... the company led by Bert Lytell gives an able performance."—Charles Collins, Tribune.

The Most Discussed Play in a Generation, with CHAS. COBURN, WHITFORD KANE, WM. INGERSOLL, THOS. FINDLAY 350 SEATS at \$1.65—150 SEATS at \$1.10—100 SEATS at 83c 4th Play, American Theater Society

NEW YORK OPERA COMIQUE (in English) 50¢ to \$2.00 NO TAX Last Week for Advance Sale GALA OPENING—"LA VIE PARISIENNE" (Parisian Life) MON. EVE, MAR. 18 AUDITORIUM THEATRE

"Dancing Doll" (Tales of Hoffman)—Mar. 21 "The Gay Deceiver" (The Bat)—Mar. 25 Company of 125—Orchestra of 40—Corps de Ballet Because of tremendous advance sale—RESERVE SEATS TODAY HARRISON 1169

The Savoyards Are Here! ERLANGER—SECOND and Final Triumph Week! (Engagement Definitely Ends March 16—Cannot Be Extended) The World Famous D'OILY CARTE OPERA COMPANY of London Direct From Triumphant Appearances in New York, Philadelphia and Boston. Evenings, 8:15; Matinees, 2:15

"THE BEST LIGHT OPERA COMPANY THAT HAS COME THIS WAY FOR A DECADE."—Charles Collins, Daily Tribune.

REPERTORY OF AUTHENTIC GILBERT & SULLIVAN OPERAS LAST 8 TIMES—FAREWELL PERFORMANCES

Mon. Eve. (Mar. 11) "THE YEOMEN" Thurs. Eve. (Mar. 14) "THE YEOMEN" Tues. (Mar. 12) "THE YEOMEN" Wed. (Mar. 13) "THE YEOMEN" Sat. (Mar. 15) "THE YEOMEN" Sun. (Mar. 16) "THE YEOMEN" (50th Anniversary Presentation)

Seats Now for All Performances (Box Office Open Today 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.) PRICES: Evenings, 30c and 85c, second balcony: \$1.10, \$1.65, \$2.20, \$2.75, first balcony: \$2.75 and \$3.30, orchestra, matinees, 50c and 85c, second balcony: \$1.10, \$1.65, \$2.20, first balcony: \$2.20, orchestra. (Tax Incl.)

WOMAN'S SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA EBBE SUNDSTROM, Conductor SUNDAY, March 10—4:00 P. M. Soloists: LEONID HAMBRO, Pianist; MARSHALL SONSON, Violinist Tickets, \$1.50, \$1.00, 75c, 50c, 25c

TODAY LAST 2 Times 2:30 MATINEE—4:30 EVENING MONTE CARLO BALLET RUSSE AUDITORIUM THEATRE SEATS AT BOX OFFICE

"SPRING IN PARIS"

Young Anne Shirley made such a hit with fans in "Anne of Green Gables" that she was recently presented with a contract and a role in "Spring in Paris."

