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# Chicago Is Talking About Shaw's and Cornell's "Saint Joan",

Play's Epilogue **Becomes** Topic for Argument Fine Historical Drama Is Marred by Last Scene of Shavian Chatter.

By Charles Collins.

HILE we are saying hail and farewell to Katharine Cornell's production of Shaw's "Saint Joan" this week the question of the epilogue may come up for discussion. This dullest portion of the play, which prolongs the performance for twenty minutes beyond normal acting time, has been a cause of complaint ever since the Theater Guild's staging in 1924; and many people who think that they can improve on the writing of any dramatist who ever lived, including Skakespeare, have begged Mr. Shaw to perform an appendectomy upon his work. Actresses, stage directors, and critics have presented petitions to him by the dozens to no avail. Here is his answer to these

remonstrances, in his preface to the published text:

"As to the epilogue I could hardbe expected to stultify myself by implying that Joan's history in the world ended unhappily with her execution, instead of beginning there. It was necessary by hook or crook to show the canonized Joan as well as the incinerated one; for many a woman has got herself burnt by carelessly whisking a muslin skirt into the drawing room fireplace, but getting canonized is a different matter, and a more important one. So I am afraid that the epilogue must stand."

#### An Epilogue in Shaw's Worst Vein.

He is famous for having an answer to everything, and in this case he is right. The story, as treated by Shaw, must have as its finale a statement of the survival of Joan's influence in the world, and her canonization in 1920 is the point to emphasize. It has strong dramatic value.

One may agree with Shaw in principle and differ with him in detail. An epilogue is necessary, but he bungled the job. When he passed outside the historical frame of Joan's life and entered an imaginative field he lost control of his theme. He became vapidly glib, garrulous, and fantastic. The epilogue is the most Shavian portion of the play, and the worst. It is more like the work of a hack pageant master than that of a major dramatist.





## Premiere of Beach Walk's **Open Air Show**

Fifty Players Appear in 'Moonlight Follies'; Villa Venice Starts Season.

HE beach walk of the Edgewater Beach hotel opened last night for open air dancing and cabaret programs. It offers an elaborate show entitled "Moonlight Follies." Featured performers are Enrica and Novello, with dance interpretations of "Beauty and the Beast" and other fairy tales. In the production numbers, with Harriette Smith's "Lovely Ladies" ballet is Emily Von Loesen, ballerina. Comedy is added by the Sherr brothers, comic dancers, who have appeared in the "Scandals" and "Vanities." Carl and Leone Bonner, musical comedy and classic song duo, carry vocal honors. A novelty is supplied by Paul Gordon, trick evelist Bernie Cummins' dance orchestra

returns with twenty musicians. There will be dancing and two floor shows every weekday night on the beach walk. Sundays the hotel's traditional "no dancing" policy will prevail. One musical show, featuring the entire company of fifty people will be given from 9 to 10 p.m. each Sunday.

The Villa Venice opened last night. Albert Bouché presents his usual floor show, with a cast of 50 people. It has had a successful run at Bouché's Miami Beach café as well as in Havana, Cuba.

• The Tower, in Niles Center, has opened its summer garden. Louis Biason and his Manila orchestra furnish the dance music. Princess Paaukau, Hawaiian vocalist and dancer, leads the floor show.

• The "Merry Widow" waltz has been revived for the present Empire room show which stars the music of Guy Lombardo and the Argentine dancing of Medrano and Donna. Four of the Abbot dancers appear in gowns typical of the period when the "Merry Widow" was the rage. Each girl invites a man sitting at a table to finish the dance with her. Betty Olds, Grace Dittman, Mary Ellen Bergh, and Peggy Marshall are the "Merry Widow" dancers. The number is given every night at 10 o'clock. Also in the show are Milton Douglas, baritone, and Oliver Wakefield, an English monologist.

· Featured on the current pro-

Heat Waves, trio of trick musicians.

George Givot is master of cere-

monies. Also featured are the Var-

gram at the College Inn are the



Molly Manors, dancer, heads the

# EXOTIC DANCER AT HARRY'S

Joanne Clark figures importantly in the floor show at Harry's New York cabaret as an exotic dancer. She is a statuesque beauty of the blonde type. [Vandamm Photo.]

Williams is master of ceremonies. There are three dance orchestras.

No Sunday Acting e "Red" Ducan, singer, dancer, ATHARINE CORNELL will and comedian, is in the show at the Liberty Inn. Others are not appear on Sunday night Laurene Ne Vell, dancer; Helen during her engagement in Marie, singer; Judith Ford, inter-Bernard Shaw's "Saint pretative dancer, and Eddie Morris. Joan" in the Grand Opera house. Earl Wiley leads the band. She has made it a rule not to act

• Lois Nixon, "torch" singer with on Sundays ever since she became stage experience, has joined the show at the Yacht club. The bill Only once has she made an exalso contains Ada Leonard, stage ception to this policy and this was beauty: Jackie Green, impersonator, in Chicago during her appearance and the Robinson Twins, dancers here in Rudolf Besier's "The Bar-Nino Rinaldo's orchestra and retts of Wimpole Street" when she Charles Engles' band play dance music. Nan Blackstone will have a return engagement beginning on

## Getting Tough

Until then it is considering noth-

HE movie firm of Warner Brothers has announced that, like Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, it will finance no plays under the recently signed contract between the Dramatists Guild and the League of New York Theaters, Jacob Wilk, head of the story departnt of Warners, said that the de-

# Theater Guild Gets Hepburn for 'Jane Eyre'

THE New York Theater Guild plans to foster the revival of "the road" next season. Four

Guild plays will take to the railroads, and one of them will be headed by no less a star than Katharine Hepburn, glamorous figure of the cinema, who will tour for at least six weeks in "Jane Eyre," Helen Jerome's new play based on the Charlotte Bronte novel, before she bows to a New York audience.

Miss Hepburn will tear herself away from the cameras of Hollywood in time to go into rehersal Nov. 1, will open her tour about a month later, with Boston, Washington, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, and Cleveland definitly set for bookings and the possibility of other stops along the way. She will not appear in New York until after the first of the year.

The other plays which the Guild will send afield are its three hits of the current season. "End of Summer" the S. N. Behrman comedy, will probably close within a few weeks to give Ina Claire, Osgood Perkins and the rest of its cast a breathing spell before they start touring. "Call It a Day," now playing at the Morosco theater, New York, with Gladys Cooper and Philip Merivale, also probably will suspend for a few week in midsummer before the to

starts. "Idiot's Delight," Robert E. She wood's play with Alfred Lunt an Lynn Fontanne, will close July to give the Lunts a rest. They will reopen in New York on Aug. 31, and probably take to the road early in 1937.

Charlie Chase, Hal Roach Break Up Association

7 HEN Charlie Chase left the Hal Roach organization recently, he broke up an as-

sociation of record standing. During his 17 years as a Roach employé, Charlie appeared in 240 comedies. He became a comedy star after being first a director and writer.

The impresario of laughs, Hal Roach, has discontinued making short comedies with, of course, the exception of the perennial dozen starring the juveniles, "Our Gang." He will concentrate his producing talents on long comedies from now on. Even Laurel and Hardy ar out of the two reel class. Charlie Chase, before beginning his free lance career, will take a long vacation.

#### Famous Men

of Joan's Era.

Historical footnotes to some of the characters in this glamorous medieval tapestry;

Jean Dunois, called the Bastard of Orleans, was the illegitimate son of the duke of Orleans and cousin by the left hand to the Dauphin. He was a great military leader and had a large share in the campaigns which drove the Eng lish out of France, consolidated the French speaking realms into a nation, and ended the Hundred Years war.

Richard Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, was not the "kingmaker" of the Wars of the Roses and Shakespeare's plays, but his father-inlaw. The "kingmaker" was Richard Neville, to whom the Warwick title and estates came through marriage with Beauchamp's daugh ter Anne. Beauchamp was a typical knight errant in his youth; after his return to England from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land he became a counselor and diplomatist for Henry V.

Gilles de Rais, who appears in "Saint Joan" as a minor character -an effeminate courtier-was one of the most notorious figures of the middle age. He was a rich noble, an able warrior, a patron of the arts, and a terrific sadist.

### Many Crimes

of Gilles de Rais. He took up alchemy and necromancy, and the cult of black magic finally turned him into a monster. Children, usually boys, were kidnaped by his retainers, to be tortured and murdered in his ignoble

CARD IN POARS ARACA M DO DA DA A

BEFRESHINGLY (OOL .)

turned from a professional tour of Japan. June is a Chicago girl. [Murray Korman Photo.]



TTATHARINE CORNELL has been voted their favorite actress by the senior classes of Princeton university, the Washington Square college of New

York university, Wesleyan college at Middletown, Conn., and the New Jersey College for Women of New Brunswick, N. J. Because Miss Cornell was unable

to pass the entrance examinations to Brvn Mawr, she returned to boarding school to teach a class in There she wrote a play drama. called "Play" for her pupils to act. Edward Goodman, a Broadway director, was engaged to stage it and he was sufficiently impressed with the girl to give her her first engagement in New York-a four word rôle in the Washington Square players' production of "Bushido."

experiments. The number of his victims is said to have been 140. He was tried for heresy and murder; he escaped the ecclesiastical court by confession and repentance; but the secular court hanged him, with two accomplices. This is foretold in "Saint Joan." Next to Joan's, his was the most famous trial in fifteenth century France. The folk tale of Bluebeard became

associated with his name.

# Paul Haakon Dances on Bill

at the Palace HE Palace theater continues

June 5. Paul Haakon, dancer of "At Home Abroad," leads the bill, assisted by his revue dancing partner, Nina Whitney, and pianist, George Davis. Others include Chick York and Rose King, with True York and the Trado Twins; Eddie White; the acrobatic Mangean Troupe.

----The variety revue at the Chicago theater this week offers: Johnny Burke, known as "the doughboy comic"; Fred Sanborn & Co., comedians; Bert Granoff, former song star with Ted Weems; the Readinger Twins, eccentric dancing sisters; the Eight Ladies of Melody, a song ensemble, and the 16 Evans



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ler." During her recent New "Ghosts" she asked audiences to vote. Ibsen defeated Chekhov and "The Cherry Orchard" by 1,920 to 1,662. The actress may make a tour the stage program that opened in the fall before visiting New

> York. Nazimova made her English speaking debut in "Hedda Gabler" in 1906.

program which has starred Hawk for the past four years. Miss Dawn comes from New York

where she has been featured in musical shows with Rudy Vallee, Willie and Eugene Howard, and others. Supporting acts are: Sammy Lewis and Patti Moore in "Dancing with a Sense of Humor"; Fid Gordon, comedian with a violin,

Don Jacks, harmonica player; the Andresens, a balancing act; Lois Malstrom, blues singer; Verne Buck and the State-Lake ballet.

Oscar Johnson, and Duke and Noble. People's Choice • Frank Westphal and a ten piece ME. NAZIMOVA will appear orchestra opens the new Bon Air next season in "Hedda Gabnight club, north of Wheeling on Milwaukee avenue. Three floor York engagement in shows are given nightly. Westphal's orchestra has been heard on a number of radio programs. The

Bon Air engagement is his first night club appearance in seven vears. • The Terrace room of the Hotel Morrison will close for the sum-

mer on Sunday, June 21. It will reopen on Labor day.

The Yacht Club Boys continue as stars of the current Chez Paree The talented tap dancer, show. Paul Draper, is also a featured member of the troupe. A newcomer is Ella Logan, Scotch girl whose songs are of the "blues" type. She is on her way to Holly-

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Tops in Taps!

sity Eight, a male octet; Frank Payne, impersonator; the Byonettes, • The new show at the Hi-Hat chorus dancers, and Al Trace's Col-Club is headed by Bill Anson, lege Inn band. The 10 o'clock show master of ceremonies and impersonis the popular Ice Carnival with ator. Supporting him are the con-Evelyn Chandler, Bess Ehrhardt, tralto oriental singer Princess Ma-Roy Shipstad, Eddie Shipstad and ruko; Ricard and Carson, ballroom

monies.

a star.

dancers; Inez Gamble, dancer, and the Rhythm Redheads. Sid Lang's orchestra plays. • Princess Ahi, the Hawaiian dancer who was featured at the Hawaiian Village of the World's Fair, is dancing at the

Club Alabam. Also on the bill are Lil Bernard and Flo Henrie; Effie Burton, singer; June Nay, dancer, and Louise Shannon, dancer, Art



show at the Parody club. Hal cision would not affect the commit-Barber is the singing and dancing ments already undertaken with remaster of ceremonies. Others are gard to next season. One is the Joan Huston, soubrette, and Billy American production of "White Fargo, blues singer. Freddy Janis' Horse Inn"; the other the producorchestra plays for dancing. tion of three plays in association with George Abbott. Wilk stated that the company would be glad to resume backing stage shows when the Guild and the managers "are willing to agree to a permanent basis for the disposal of film rights."

ing for production.

Other St. Joans.

Winifred Lenihan acted the title rôle of Shaw's "Saint Joan" when the play had its world première in New York on Dec. 28, 1923. Julia Arthur played the rôle in Chicago Sybil Thorndike in London, Ludmilla Piteoff in Paris and Elizabeth Bergner in central Europe.



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