

"Crime at Blossom's". in Glencoe; News of Theaters

Miss Landis in Light Comedy on North Shore

Dublin's Abbey Theater Gets New Deal; Quarrel with O'Casey Ends.

By Charles Collins.

THE CRIME AT BLOSSOM'S, current as the second production of the North Shore Drama festival and hastily reviewed by wire from the cloakroom of the Central school playhouse in Glencoe on the night of its premiere July 12, hardly requires postscript comment. It is a thin piece of work in the Oxford "don" vein of literary comedy—a little theater play in spite of the fact that it calls for a cast of twenty-one players. It serves well enough, I will grant, for summer theatergoing, but as festival material it is more or less negligible.

The performance, however, gives fresh emphasis to the fact that these productions in Glencoe are thoroughly professional and have players of well established reputations in the leading roles, Jessie Royce Landis, guest co-star, gives a brilliant demonstration of her skill as the "Muse of Murder" in the second act of this play. J. W. Austin and Edith Atwater of the resident company are also effective contributors to the well-balanced interpretation. Ernest Glendinning, the other co-star, is not completely at home in the role of the lazy, horticultural young husband of the story; he is a driving, energetic, intellectual comedian miscast as an ineffectual, dilly-dallying Briton. But he is an actor who gives importance to the Glencoe project, for he has been active on the American stage, frequently in stellar position, for thirty years.

Schedule for North Shore Plays.

A few words of information about the schedule for these productions are in order. Each play is staged for twelve night performances, omitting Sundays; therefore "The Crime at Blossom's," which started on Friday, July 12, will continue until next Thursday night, July 25. The premiere of the third play in the series, André Obey's "Noah," is dated for Wednesday night, July 31. The interim between closings and openings on the schedule is occupied with intensive rehearsals.

The guest star for "Noah" will be Burgess Meredith, who is unknown in Chicago but who has won honors in New York. He is Katharine Cornell's latest discovery, and had a prominent role in her production of John Van Druten's "Flowers of the Forest" in New York last spring. Two members of the New York cast of "Noah"—an affair of last winter—have been engaged by Ben Guy Phillips, director of the festival. They are Harry Bellaver, for the role of Ham, and Margaret Arrow, for the role of Mama (Mrs. Noah).

A New Deal for Abbey Theater.

Word comes from Dublin to the effect that the first step in a "New Deal" for the Abbey Theater company has been a reconciliation with Sean O'Casey, the Irish dramatist who moved to London and became highbrow and symbolic after his meteoric rise to fame with "Juno and the Paycock," "The Plough and the Stars," and "The Shadow of a Gunman"—all important items in the Abbey's repertory. It was the rejection by the Abbey directors of O'Casey's "The Silver Tassie," in 1929 that soured the young man and caused him to turn toward the higher life in London, uttering harsh words about his compatriots. This feud has been ended. The return of O'Casey to the national the-

PLENTY TO THINK ABOUT

Mr. Paul Lukas' thoughtful expression is not without reason. "The Age of Indiscretion" (Apollo) gives him plenty to think about. Including Madge Evans. This handsome Hungarian is one of the most popular cast players.



Leslie Howard

AFTER his presentation of "Hamlet" next fall Leslie Howard plans to make a motion picture based on the life of the late T. E. Lawrence, "Lawrence of Arabia." The actor expects to persuade Warner Brothers, his Hollywood employers, to produce the film.

Howard has also acquired another dramatic idea. He owns the script of "And Now Good-bye," dramatized by Philip Howard (no relation) from the book by James Hilton. This will not be done until late next season. "Hamlet" is to open in New York in October after a short tour and will run for not more than twelve weeks.

ater of his native land will be celebrated in August with a production of his rejected opus.

Furthermore, the new board of governors of the Abbey want the organization to climb out of its rut of peasant plays. They hope to see some "progressive" work on the stage of the famous little playhouse; they even indicate that a dash of the "moderne" now and then would be helpful. They are opposed to old-school stage settings, and yearn for Abbey backgrounds designed and painted in the "decorative" and "stylized" manner. They would also like to get some new blood into the company.

So when the Abbey Players return to Chicago, two or three years hence, their characteristic flavor may have changed. I am already slightly jittery at the prospect of Irish drama with a Greenwich Village coloring in its atmosphere.

Three Actors Give Title to 'Men on Horse'

MUCH has been written about "Three Men on a Horse," but all through the long run of the play here no one has answered the ever recurring question, "Who are the three?"

Here are the facts about these actors: Matt Briggs, who acts Patsy, the burly leader, has the longest role in the show. He ran away from home at 14 to join "Slaves of the Mine," a melodrama. It was six years before he got back to Brooklyn, his home, and then he quit "the road" for two years of study at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Broadway has seen Briggs in a dozen hits. Chicago remembers him principally in "Brothers," with Bert Lytell, and as the villainous Steve in "Broadway." Last season before joining "Three Men on a Horse" he was in three other plays on Broadway—"Kill That Story," "So Many Paths," and "Nowhere Bound." Previously he had scored in "Twentieth Century" and "Wonder Boy."

Owen Martin, who is Patsy's first lieutenant, looks Jewish, but hails from County Armagh, Ireland. He went to school in Brooklyn and became an exercise boy at the Belmont race track. He wanted to be a jockey and fate met him half way with a role in "The Futurity Winner," biggest vaudeville act of its day. As a youngster he was an end man in a minstrel show with Frank Tinney. In recent years he has become a "type" actor.

Martin acted for twelve weeks in Chicago with Al Jolson in "Big Boy," and later had twenty weeks here with "Little Accident." Last season in New York he scored in George Abbott's "Small Miracle."

Martin Gable, smallest and loudest of the three chiselers, is a grandnephew of Max Gable, a Yiddish star. For seven generations the Gables were traveling players in Austria. Born in Philadelphia, he is 23 years old and a graduate of Lehigh university. For a season he attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts while playing in "Man Bites Dog" in New York. Last season he played there in "Sky's the Limit."

Texas Play Contest.

A prize of \$250 is being offered by the Dallas Woman's club, as a feature of the Texas centennial celebration, for the best original unproduced and unpublished one act play written by a native Texan or a resident of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, or New Mexico. The play will be staged by the Dallas Woman's club in celebration of Texas Independence day.

Mohawk Festival

THE Mohawk Drama Festival, scheduling four comedies for the four weeks between July 23 and Aug. 17 on the new landscape stage at Union college, Schenectady, N. Y., will open next Tuesday night with a performance of "The Merry Wives of Windsor." The "Lysistrata" of Aristophanes, in the Gilbert Seldes version, will be given the following week; "Rip Van Winkle," in the Joseph Jefferson version, is scheduled for Aug. 6 to Aug. 10; "Master of the Revels," a new play by Don Marquis, will be produced on Aug. 13.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Coburn will be seen in the leading roles. In "The Merry Wives," Mr. Coburn will give his characterization of Falstaff and Mrs. Coburn will play Mrs. Ford. Frederica Goings will appear as Mrs. Page, Neville Westman as Ann Page, Hart Jenks as Ford, John Burke as Page, Henry Buckner as Shallow, Chris Cooksey as Pistol, Leroy Opert as Bardolph, Warren Parker as Nym, Bram Nosen as Sir Hugh Evans, William Packer as Slender and Sterling Oliver as Fenton.

For ensemble and ballet a number of dancers from the Chicago Opera company and other ballet organizations have been engaged, including Blake Scott, Mischa Pomplunov, Bernard Day, Katherine Wilson, and Mildred Betz. Ensemble and ballet features will be under the direction of the Marmain sisters, Phyllis and Irene.

Stage Lectures

JOHAN VAN DRUTEN, the English dramatist, will appear on the lecture platform of Northwestern university's school of speech to lecture July 30, Aug. 1, 6, and 8 on the subject, "Plays and Playwrights."

He is the author of a number of plays, beginning with "Young Woodley," written in 1925 and produced for an eight months' run in New York, followed by another eight months on tour. He has had five other plays produced in both England and America—"After All," "Diversion," "There's Always Juliet," "The Distaff Side," and "The Flowers of the Forest." His plays produced only in England are "London Wall," "Somebody Knows," and "Behold We Live."

Van Druten has written two novels, "Young Woodley" and "A Woman on Her Way," both published in America, and has contributed to English and American magazines. He has worked in Hollywood on three motion pictures.

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THE CLYMAS TROUPE, in the new show at the Coconut Grove, uses every member of the cast from Gus Van, star singing comedian, down to the chorus girls, in their act. Loretta Clymas resembles Ann Harding. Joe Clymas, French-Hungarian, got the idea for his act of acrobatic pantomime and dancing twelve years ago when he was lightweight boxing champion of Europe and he and his second conquered sixteen men in free for all fight in a Budapest café.

The ballroom dancers, Lydia and Joresco, who opened in the Continental room of the Stevens hotel last Friday evening, are supported by Jackie Green, juvenile impersonator of theater stars. He is also a singer. Horacio Zito's contract, as band leader has been renewed. Sid Prilkin, guitarist, is soloist with Zito's band.

Veloz and Yolanda, the dancers, are breaking all records for attendance in their run at the Empire room of the Palmer house. They will remain at least until Aug. 1. Supporting the stars are: Cardini, magician; "The Three Nonchalants," a comedy trio, and the Veloz and Yolanda orchestra under the direction of Shep Fields. Veloz and Yolanda dance in the first and third shows only.

Horace Heidt, California band leader, has prepared many novelties for his Sunday night dance concert program from the Silver Forest of the Drake hotel in response to suggestions from radio "fans" who have followed his nightly broadcast. Alveno Rey, singing guitar artist; Lysbeth Hughes, singing harpist; Alyce King and the three King Sisters; Harold Woolsey, whistler; Art Thorsen, bass violinist; Bob McCoy, and a glee club are featured in the nightly floor show.

Harry's New York cabaret started a series of weekly amateur contests yesterday afternoon. The prize is a week's engagement in the floor show. The contests are conducted by Freddy Marcus, master of ceremonies, who replaces Earl Rickard. The regular floor show, starring Trudy Davidson, continues. An entire new show will open in two weeks.

Pianist Ted Fio-Rito, whose orchestra and troupe of entertainers are the attraction on the Beach walk of the Edgewater Beach



SPENDS SUMMER ON CHICAGO STAGE

No one can tell Marjorie Lytell that Chicago isn't a first class summer show town. She is spending the entire summer here, acting the heroine of "Three Men on a Horse," now in the seventeenth week of its record breaking run at the Harris.

(Maurice Seymour Photo.)

New War Play

ARTHUR HOPKIN'S first production of the coming season will be Sidney Howard's dramatization of "Paths of Glory," the novel of the war by Humphrey Cobb. It will employ a cast of 71 actors, and will have a multitude of scenes. The plot of the novel considers the plight of three soldiers, selected to be shot as warnings to their comrades, because of apparent cowardice during a minor engagement in the world war.

hotel, carries a \$500,000 insurance policy on his ten fingers. His output as a song writer includes "King for a Day," "Laugh Clown, Laugh," "No, No, Nora," "There'll Come a Time," "Three on a Match," "Charlie, My Boy," "I Never Knew," "Love Bird," "Toot, Toot Tootsie," "When Lights Are Low," and "Sometime."

Riverview park's many shows include the "Fountain of Youth" and "Venus on the Half-Shell," which were sideshows in the Streets of Paris at A Century of Progress. The "Congo" show contains a

group of African natives, illustrating their jungle customs.

A show called "Song of France" was added to the "Carnival of Gypsies" program in the Walnut room of the Bismarck hotel last Friday night. The musical score for the first part features melodies from the operetta "The Vagabond King."

The Vanity Fair café will reopen next Thursday night as a summer garden and night club. This resort was the old Bismarck Gardens, famous for decades; then the Marigold Gardens, an early post-war night club. The title of Vanity Fair is not new, but the decorations will be up to the minute.

Al Kvale, well known dance band and orchestra leader, will be in charge of the music. The other entertainers will be Ann Rush, prima donna; Charles Mason, tenor; Ballantine and Pearce, ballroom dancers; and Darlene Walters, acrobatic dancer. Al Mann and David Brantover are the managers.

Gala Bill at State-Lake; Variety Show

THIS week marks the second anniversary of the State-Lake theater under the management of Jones, Linick & Schaefer. The program of its stage show is led by Billy House, singing comedian of such Broadway shows as "Murder at the Vanities," and "All the King's Horses." He offers a comedy sketch, "Holidays," and also serves as master of ceremonies.

Other acts on the bill are the Four Albee Sisters, singers and dancers; Heller and Riley, comedians; Dezzo Ruter, called "The Man Who Wrestles with Himself"; Lange and Morgner, in a novelty; Mignonne, a dancer; Verne Buck and the State-Lake ballet.

Ed Sullivan, Broadway columnist, is making his Chicago bow as an entertainer at the Palace theater this week. He chaperons a new night club ruse which contains Dixie Dunbar, who was Ray Bolger's dancing partner in "Life Begins at 4:40"; Joan Abbott, a pretty singer; Betty Jane Cooper, who dances with the Lathrop Brothers; Tito Coral, Mexican baritone; the Stanley Twins, with their shadow dance, and Peg-Leg Bates, colored dancer. Visiting stars from night clubs are introduced by Sullivan from the stage.

The Chicago theater's stage show of last week hold over this week. It offers the character actor, Les Carillo, and the "Hour of Charm," all-girl orchestra and singing ensemble, under the direction of Phil Spitalny.

Jack Fine Impresario of the Midway Village at A Century of Progress, is offering "The Band Box Revue," at the Oriental theater. It contains ten acts from vaudeville, including Allen Reno, master of ceremonies; Cecilia Blaire, acrobatic dancer; Rodney and Gould, comedians; and the Burke Sisters.

Lincoln Drama.

The theater of the University of Iowa will produce "Prologue to Glory," a new play about the early life of Abraham Lincoln, by Ellsworth Proctor Conkle, on July 25. Ceremonies of corner stone laying for the new university theater building will be held the next day.

Western Premiere.

Under the direction of Dr. Lester Raines of the New Mexico Normal university, "The Golden Bough," a play by the late Mary Austin, was staged on July 15 in Las Vegas, N. M. It tells a story of ancient Rome.

MUSIC MASTER AT THE STEVENS

Horacio Zito, orchestra leader for the cabaret and dance music in the Continental room of the Stevens hotel, came to Chicago after a long engagement at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York City. He is an Argentinean by birth, and is an expert conductor of all forms of Spanish-American numbers.

(Maurice Seymour Photo.)

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ENGLISH ACTOR IN GLENCOE PLAYS

J. W. Austin, an English actor of wide experience, is prominent in the productions of the North Shore Drama Festival, at Glencoe. He appeared as a curate in "Crime at Blossoms."

(Calvert Photo.)