Group Theater Gives Special Matinee of Odets' 'Lefty'

Radicals' Pet Play Acted by Proud Parents

Drama of Labor Oratory Is Billed by "Awake and Sing" Company.

By Charles Collins.

HIS afternoon in the Harris theater the Group Theater company of New York will offer a single performance of the play that gave hundreds of radical amateur actors an opportunity to foam at the mouth with pseudo-sociological importance -Clifford Odets' "Waiting for Lefty." This special production, staged in response to requests from numerous lefties, will have no effect upon the company's regular bill, "Awake and Sing," by the same Odets, which will continue on normal schedule for a run.

The play is a brevity in seven episodes, dealing with the foreground and background of a strike meeting among union taxicab drivers. Its dramatic effect is based chiefly upon the familiar vigor of labor agitators' oratory; it is a vivid condensation of the emotional effect of soap box sloganeering. The young and tender minds who are impressed by this type of eloquence [including New York drama critics] have proclaimed loudly that its author, a product of the Group company, is the wonder boy and the white hope of the American stage - greater even than their chief greatness of five years ago, Eugene O'Neill.

A brief program of recitations and sketches will serve as curtain raiser to the Odetsian tantrum.

Vague Prospects for Summer Theatricals.

Chicago's theatrical season is dawdling toward its close-a time which may be fixed by Katharine Cornell's engagement here in "St. Joan" during the first and second weeks in June. Everything that happens between then and Labor day may be casually regarded as summer stuff; moreover, the prospects that anything will happen are decidedly vague.

"Awake and Sing" may stretch its engagement into the early summer, but this seems unlikely, because the Groupers have a habit of going into pastoral retreat at the approach of warm weather, to meditate upon the philosophy of the summer boarders. If sufficiently encouraged by the box office returns of their present visit, they promise to return to Chicago next

season with a large repertory. "Three Men on a Horse," of course, is no news at all; Chicago has already had thirty-seven weeks of it. But back it comes to the Harris theater tomorrow night, hoping for another protracted run. It has the same cast as before, with Jack Sheehan in the center of the serio-comic pranks.

Busy Week for Semi-Pros of Drama.

The semi-pros and amateurs who have swarmed in upon the lost territory of the professional stage. clasping lilies to their breasts, yerning for the spiritual blessings of the drama, and hollering for drama critics to give them a little

this week. For example: The Chicago Comic Opera company, largely composed of choir singers and voice students, will stage "H. M. S. Pinafore" in the Chicago Woman's club theater tonight for seven performances. This group is devoted to the Gilbert and Sullivan tradition, and performs its rituals fairly well.

kind applause, will be fairly active

The Playwrights' Theater, which made its début in a reconstructed barn at 1120 North Dearborn street last week, will repeat itself on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights. Its bill is a drama called "The Wind and the Rain," which deals with certain phases of uni-

CHORUS GIRL IN "AT HOME ABROAD"



versity life. Some of its players "Broken Dishes," a comedy by

"From Out of the Darkness" at

the Studebaker theater a few

Federal Theater No. 1 [WPA] at

the Great Northern, has changed

its mind about folding up "Chalk

Dust," which purports to give the

low-down on the metropolitan high

school system, and will continue

The other WPA venture, at the

"Some of these days"

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Blackstone theater, also changes

its mind. It intended to stage

the play for another week.

NelidoffRevue Comes Back to Walnut Room

Heidt's Band Returns to Drake for Summer Run; News of the Cabarets.

EORGE NELIDOFF and his son to tour the coast. company of entertainers re-I turned to the Walnut room of the Bismarck hotel last Friday night. Phil Levant's orchestra supplies the music for Nelidoff's revues and for dancing. Nelidoff's company includes Angela Tricome, Muriel Davenport, Leonard Balsamo, Maxim Kostiluck, Walter Kamryn, Lolita Bertling, Mata Montaria, and Bettina Rosay.

• Horace Heidt and his Brigadiers band have returned to the Silver Forest room of the Drake hotel for the summer season. He has an augmented band, with novelties, a new glee club, and his former principals, Lysbeth Hughes, singing harpist, Alveno Rey, guitarist, the Campbell sisters, and Jerry Bowne and Art Thorsen, comedians.

 Robert Halliday, the Broadway operetta singer, who was scheduled to appear in the floor show supporting Guy Lombardo, will not





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ADVERTISE IN THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Producer's Plans TEXT season George Abbott

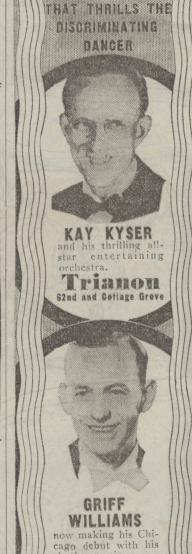
-the first on his record. Its authors will be Richard Rodgers, Lorenz Hart, and Mr. Abbott, the trio who wrote the current 'On Your Toes." The background may be Mexican.

June 1 is now the première date of Abbott's production of "Boy Meets Girl" in London. The No. 2 or Chicago company, now in the midwest, will wait until next sea-

appear in the new Empire Room show. Milton Douglas, also a singer, has been engaged to open with Lombardo on Memorial day evening, May 30. Oliver Wakefield, an imitator new to Chicago, has also been engaged. Medrano and Donna, Argentine dancers, will be chief in support of Lombardo. They will bring with them their own Argentine band. The Abbott Dancers will complete the bill.

By arrangement with the Warner Brothers Pictures corporation, Otto K. Eitel of the Stevens hotel has extended the contract of Ramon and Renita, dancers and creators of the "Ronrico," for an

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MCVICKERS AT STATE "THE LAND OF PROMISE"

May 25. They were originally contracted for a period of six weeks in the Continental room prior to their return to Hollywood.

 Kay Kyser and his orchestra will remain at the Trianon ballroom for four more weeks. At the Aragon, Griff Williams is playing his first engagement east of the Rockies. Featured entertainers are Buddy Moreno, Monty Kelly and the Nob Hill-Billies.

• The Edgewater Beach hotel continues with Frankie Masters' dance band and Harriette Smith's ballet. The dance team of Marjorie Enters and Phillipe Borgia made

additional four weeks commencing their debut last Friday, May 15, Also new are the Joyce Brothers and Dean, in acrobatic dancing.

> • Following a two day absence from the Chez Paree last week Harry Richman returned, bringing from New Orleans a uniform and official papers entitling him to the title No. 1 colonel of Louisiana, earned by appearance at a charity

More than \$250,000 has been spent in adding new features in preparation for the opening of Riverview's thirty-third season next Wednesday. The outstanding new attraction is the "Pair-o-Chutes"

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-Lloyd Lewis, Daily News

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