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STAGE ★ SCREEN — Pittsburgh Courier — DRAMA ★ MUSIC

OHIO AND WEST VIRGINIA TO HEAR ELLINGTON

RALPH COOPER TO LEAD OWN BAND

NEW YORK, April 11—A grand surprise is in prospect for 125th street Apollo audiences the week beginning Friday, April 12, when an artist who needs no introduction to our readers appears there with an entirely new innovation. Apollo audiences have laughed at his gags, they have appreciated his antics, they have applauded his mannerisms and have whistled for his dancing, and it is safe to assume they will jam the 125th street Apollo to capacity when Harlem's own favorite son and prince of emcees conducts his own band of eighteen ace musicians, each man an accomplished artist and picked with aforethought for their individual skill.

It is said that this talented organization of musicians will prove to be on a par with the most eminent of sepia orchestras and since it is the intention of the 125th street Apollo management to continue to present all the greatest name bands obtainable for their popular playhouse, Apollo audiences will be in a position to compare Ralph's new orchestra with bands who have already reached the pinnacle of fame. The 125th street Apollo management is to be commended for their resourcefulness and their ever willing readiness to assume the lead in any venture that will provide better and more novel entertainment for their thousands of loyal patrons.

Since Morris Sussman, managing director of the Apollo, and Ralph Cooper are both so well familiar with the likes of their audiences based on fifteen months of close association with them at the 125th street Apollo, they are in position to know exactly what it takes to satisfy them musically and every effort will be devoted in that direction.

HESHLA TAMANY TO RETURN TO NEWARK

By CHAPPIE GARDNER

NEW YORK, April 11—Heshla Tamanya, the Ethiopian soprano, returns to Newark, N. J., for a concert recital at the Robert Treat High School Auditorium, on April 22. She is being sponsored by the Israel Memorial and the Clinton Churches.

NEW "DE LAWD" HONORED

(Courtesy Daily News, N. Y.)

Charles W. Wood, the new "De Lawd" of "Green Pastures," is honored as he meets Paul Mallon, Christus of "Veronica's Veil," in New York recently.

Glenn and Jenkins, Buck and Bubbles, Continue To 'Click'

By CHAPPY GARDNER

NEW YORK, April 11—Glenn and Jenkins and Buck and Bubbles remain among the few all star acts playing big time today. The screen and the revue type of show have just about wiped out most of the good acts. Things have come to the place where you must be good to remain an attraction. One other thing bobs up, that is the white producer is forever putting the white acts on various bills in preference to black acts.

Glenn and Jenkins have a standard act. It is clean comedy. Moves fast and gets the laughs because it entertains, and does it better than a white act could do it. Hence they stay on top. Turning to that team of Buck and Bubbles, we have another original, fun making, sidesplitting duo of merry actors. Always in demand and very often they find it difficult to play on bills with other so termed top line white acts, because they take the show, steal it completely from other acts who positively refuse to follow them. In each instance, these black actors with original working material, giving the public laughs, continue to please and stay above the rest.

'TORRID RHYTHM' KIND OF SOCIAL INSURANCE, SAYS SCHIFFMAN

NEW YORK, April 11—"Torrid Rhythm," such as is dispensed by the leading bands of the day headed by outstanding maestros like Willie Bryant, Don Redman, Chick Webb, Cab Calloway Tiny Bradshaw, Eubie Blake and Teddy Hill, is warmly defended by Frank Schiffman, who employs regularly such bands at his Harlem Opera House to tickle the fancy of his overflowing audiences.

Mr. Schiffman admits that it is "hot music" that brings the crowds, pointing to the tremendous following of the leading bands, and also admitting, in his capacity as director of Harlem's largest theater, that there is a noticable decline in patronage when a band fails to catch the public favor.

"And why not 'torrid rhythm'," Mr. Schiffman, defending the scorching notes beaten out by gymnastic musicians. "Hot music is a form of social insurance," he adds, "and has proved a wonderful sedative for society during the depression. It is the extra hot notes that give the emotional release so necessary to individuals weighted down with almost unbearable troubles.

"When people are out of a job, getting half enough to eat, and can scrape together only enough extra money to see a show once a week, are suddenly seemingly wafted away into a magical world made of multi-colored bubbles through burning up music, the sheer ecstasy they get in this brief moment justifies all the clowning, sweating, yelling and gyrations of the bandmaster and his breathess workers. On leaving the theater the experience has renewed or remade the downcast individual. He is back to normal. Yes, the end of 'torrid rhythm' easily justifies the means required to produce it."

LONDONERS PAY $50 A SEAT FOR ROBESON FILM PREMIERE

LONDON, England, April 11—(ANP) — Perhaps the greatest "take" in the history of the motion picture in England was registered here last Monday night for the premiere of "Sanders on the River," a film starring Paul Robeson, the American colored actor and singer.

Wealthy residents of London and of the nearby countryside, including visitors from Paris and American tourists, paid $50 a seat for the opening night. The premiere was staged as a charity and the net receipts amounted to nearly $70,000 for the one performance.

DEATH OF BENNIE MOTEN IS MOURNED BY MUSICAL WORLD

KANSAS CITY, Mo., April 11—The death of Bennie Moten is being mourned in orchestra circles in every section of the country.

Moten, whose genius at organization had given him an orchestra which crashed through to brilliant success in both the East and the West, was listed among the "big ten" in colored musical circles.

Dead at 39, the news of his untimely death last Tuesday at the Wheatley Hospital, was a shock to the entire country.

Moten took sick Sunday and entered the hospital Monday night. Tuesday morning he was operated on for tonsilectomy; suffering a relapse on the operating table. Efforts to revive him were futile and he died without regaining consciousness.

One of Six Children

One of six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Ruben Moten, Bennie started playing the piano at the age of four and formed his first orchestra in 1916. His knowledge of music and his eunique arrangements won him the distinction of being one of the first orchestras on the Victor Phonograph Records.

Coming East several years ago, he swept the country. He went back to Kansas City, and numerous efforts of eastern promoters to get him East were unavailing.

His latest 15-piece combination was to open in Denver on Tuesday . . . the day he died. He composed a number of popular songs. Surviving him are his wife, Mrs. Crable Moten; one daughter, Zella Mae Moten; four sisters, Lema Smith, Thelma Coleman, Josephine Lee and Zella Ashcraft and one brother, Ira Mo[illegible].

He was buried Friday from Kansas City and thousands turned out to pay him final homage.

Radio comedian says the columnists steal his stuff. No columnist would compliment a radio comedian that much.

What this country needs is a system that will allow six men to work and only one man to boss, instead of six men to boss and one man to work.

There never was such a bad egg but what some alert officer could not come along and crack him.

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CINCINNATI, FAIRMONT TO BE VISITED BY DUKE

CINCINNATI, O., April 11—Duke Ellington, "King of Jazz," whose latest dance tour is being heralded as his most successful, has two towns all excited over his coming.

The man who still ranks as one of the greatest box-office attractions in the country, has been booked for two big dances in the tri-state territory.

Cincy Next Thursday

Ellington, who appeared here recently at Castle Farms in a big white dance, returns to the city on next Thursday, April 18, for a one-night engagement at the Palace Ballroom, in the heart of the downtown district.

Cincinnati has caught the Ellington fever, and it is believed that the largest crowd ever to attend a dance in the Queen City will be on hand.

Fairmont Next Night

The next night, Friday April 19, Ellington and his famous jungle band, are scheduled for an engagement at the Fairmont Armory in Fairmont, W. Va. This affair looms as the "biggest affair of the season" and it is expected that hundreds of people from surrounding towns will help to make of the affair a howling success.

Next Fridays' affair will mark the first appearance of The Duke in the section, and, coming just before Easter, as it does, should draw another capacity crowd.

The Ellington Music

Duke is known to have introduced a new style of jungle rhythm to the dance-loving public and his compositions which include "Mood Indigo" and "Solitude," as well as his arrangement of the song hit, "Stormy Weather" have made him almost incomparable.

Willie Bryant Gets Third NBC Program

NEW YORK, April 11—Willie Bryant, the popular "Long John" of the baton wielding fraternity, scored ten last week when the Red network of Station WEAF added a Monday midnight program for him from 12 to 12:30 from the Vendome Hotel in Buffalo, where the smiling maestro is now filling a commercial engagement. This new program comes in addtion to Willie's regular Tuesday and Thursday broadcasts, from 3:30 and 5:45 respectively. Willie's smart vocalizing is still charming the radio fans, and his mail is getting heavier and heavier.

LUIS RUSSELL SCORES ON FINAL APPEARANCE

NEW YORK, April 11—Sadness ran hand in hand with gaiety at the Apollo theater last week as Luis Russell, ace exponent of the piano with his 'Old Man River' orchestra, made his final New York appearance from the present season. Russell and his "Old Man River" orchestra will be off to Europe in about ten days.

EARL J. MORRIS
GRAND TOWN
DAY AND NIGHT

Mama! Here's That Mellow Man
AGAIN AND HE'S RARIN' TO GO!

CHICAGO, April 11.—THANKS! THANKS! THANKS! AND THANKS! I am thanking you one and all for the kindness shown me during my illness. A fellow never knows how many friends he has until something happens. I am indeed grateful to the many, many theatrical people, who sent telegrams, letters, visited me and aided me during my illness. To the hundreds of readers throughout America that sent kind letters to a guy that was down. To a fellow they had never seen. It makes one feel that this isn't such a bad world and that the expression "Brotherly love" is more than just an expression. Thanks you dear readers one and all. I wish I was able to print the names of the hundreds of people who I am in truth indebted, but that would take a couple of volumes of books to do so. So I say thank you again.

Ina Ray Hutton

Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway and other ace bands had better look out for Jimmy Lunceford and his orchestra of master musicians. The Regal Theatre in Grandtown and the Oriental theatre in Chicago's loop is still raving over his band. Ina Ray Hutton and her Melodeers, an all-white girl band set a precedent in Chicago recently by playing, to my knowledge, every Balaban and Katz house in town, missing only one theater—The Regal. Many Chicagoans are wild about the orchestra of Floyd Towne and His "Men About Town" broadcasting from the swank ofay Harry's New York Cabaret, downtown. This ofay band plays strictly Harlemese. Sez Us!

If the emperor of Ethiopia was a former resident of Harlem he would probably send the following syncopated international note: "We don't care what Il Duce Mussolini don't allow, we're gonna do it anyhow!"

Mrs. Vivian Thompson, mother of a Clarence Weemette at Dave's cafe is such an ardent fan of Jay Jackson, the celebrated sepia cartoonist, that she has water-colored the entire "Society Sue" cartoons which appeared in the Courier recently. She lives at 4811 St. Lawrence avenue, Chicago. Noble Sissle, now appearing at the French Casino in New York, according to Billy Banks, is trying to organize a Negro Actor's Guild. Their headquarters are in W. C. Handy's office . . . it is rumored that "Shuffle Along" maye be made into a flicker. If so, it will undergo the same changes that were made in "Roberta" when it changed from a stage musical to a gelatin . . . Mildred Cutrell is that way about that certain guitar player. Doris Rubottom, stage beauty, and "Crackshot Hackley" are having a theatrical feud.

Bits About 'Em

Hattie Noels the most successful black-faced woman of comedy in the race, has just finished a four-week engagement at the Garrick theatre in St. Louis. She is now with Fulton Alexander and his "Chocolate Scandals" at Club Hy-D-Way, an ofay St. Louis club. The latest dope from Leo Salkin's theatrical offices is that negotiatings are being made for Harriet Calloway and band to do 20 weeks in Europe . . . Carroll Dickerson has received numerous offers for his band since the closing of the Grand Terrace, where he held sway during Earl Hines' absence. "Make me an offer big enough!" he says. Danny and Eddie, clever Dewey Washington, now starring at Ernie's Club, 310 in Chi may be the next sepia to headline the "State and Lake" theater. Louise Beavers won the hearts of ofay Chicago at this house. She opens at the Regal on the 26th . . . The champion rope dancing team Danny and Edith after playing Chicagoland will open on the 26th at the Apollo theatre, in Harlem, play the circuit and open in New York at the Roxy. Danny Brown is not his real name he was christened James Alexander. The beautiful Edith is his wife. Duke Ellington, it is reported, will definitely set sail in May . . . Nadine Henderson, 200 pounds of singing and dancing joy is now doing a Sophie Tucker at the Club Everbarr in Buffalo . . . Leonard Harper, ace sepia producer and manager of the ill-fated "Mid-Night Club" staged the show built around Fifi Dorsay, the French movie star, appearing at Club Royale in the loop.

It Was Told To Me

It is being whispered across bridge tables on The Grandtown Goldcoast that the attractive Mrs. Helen Abbott, former wife of the publisher, has been secretly wedded for three months to the dashing William C. McKelvey . . . The lovely Roma Lawson, Chi school teacher, and the militant Sidney P. Jones, one of the better lawyers and high potentate of the "49th State" movement will tell it to the preacher man in June. Like Moses he will lead his bride to the Promised (49th State) Land . . . The blonde Helen Oneil and Charles Farrell, the financier, are that way . . . The radiant Thelma Doyle, sister-in-law to the handsome Dr. C. C. Doyle has a beer gurgling emporium tagged, "The Bronx Inn at 5537 Michigan. A. C. "Rabbit" Hart is her man of war . . . roses to Thyra Edwards for her brilliant address on "Negro Women in Soviet Russia." Mrs. Hazel E. Anderson, president of the To-Da-Fa Club entertained several of the members of the Douglas Voters League of Cook County, composed of women leaders at her home last week. Among the guests were: Mesdames Roscoe C. Giles, Morris Lewis, Wendell Green, David McGowan and T. V. Smith. The charming Maud Pugh and debonair Nelson "Cyclone" Sykes are reported engaged.

Black Politics

Herman N. Randall, young Demo leader, delivered a brilliant radio speech for Mayor Edward J. Kelly in the recent campaign. The lad was so loyal to the mayor that he "confidenced" the radio station out of the time. He tipped the technician $2.00. (His last) The boy had been identified with the Democrats of Chi for years and has been kicked about like last years football. He has never had a decent job. In case anybody is interested address the writer at 4410 South Parkway, Chicago . . . Put this into your book and save it. Joe Tittinger will not be re-elected as Demo committeeman of the 2nd ward . . . It will be either Louis B. Anderson, Wallace Johnson or Bryant Hammond. Arthur W. Mitchell had better make the most of his time in Washington, because after the next election he will be an ex-Congressman. Oscar DePriest will return.

Reuben Brown, dapper dancing em cee at the Talk of the Town, an ofay night club, last week tried to physically demonstrate taht he was a miniature Joe Louis to Marshall Bynum, wardrobe concessioners and brother-in-law to Maud Russell, who understudied for Ethel Waters in "As Thousands Cheer."

POPULAR REPERTORY PLAYERS

Four members of the Negro Repertory Players who will appear in Hartford, Conn., on April 25th. Top, left to right: Louise Pearson Hayes and Valerie Parks. Bottom, left to right: James Butcher, director, and Grace Desmond Butcher.

Nicholas Brothers To Be Seen In "Big Broadcast Of 1935"

NEW YORK CITY, April 11 — Those sensational dancing juveniles, the Nicholas Kids, who, last week added more laurels of honors to their chest of many, are at it again. The current week finds them sharing honors at the Valencia theater in Jamaica, L. I., on a bill with Mark Hellinger, New York Age columnist and Gladys Glad, a former beauty, glorified by the late Florenz Ziegfeld.

Doing three shows a day, the Nicholas kids proved to residents of this section that they are truly expert delineators of rhythm in dancing, the personification of perfection. One ardent theatre goer went so far as to state, after seeing Fayard and Harold do their dance, "Who could ask for anything more?"

After completing several other dates for Loew's Circuit, the talented Kids will begin work before the camera for Paramount in the "Big Broadcast of 1935." This will mark the second full length picture for the brothers. Shooting will begin early in the summer, at which time the kids will have closed their very successful and sensational engagement at the world famous Cotton Club.

Across The Desk Of The Theatrical Editor

MERIDIAN, Miss.—All colored road shows and dance orchestras touring the state are urged to write the tax commissioner at Jackson, Miss., for they are subject to being fined heavily for playing various towns without a permit.

Mr. Charels Z. Mitchell gives this timely word of warning. Thanks!

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky.—Hershel Banks and his Orchestra, 12 men, with a lady entertainer, are breaking all records in Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee. The band needs a good trumpet player. Write to H. S. Banks 209 Elm street, this city.

BOSTON, Mass.—Irving Ridley, lyric baritone, is being hailed as another Roland Hayes by enthusiastic listeners who attended the second meeting of the National Association of Negro Musicians here recently. The singer is now studying at the New England Conservatory of Music. He sang "Somebody Knocking at Your Door" and Dudley Buck's "Sunset," to tremendous applause.

CHARLESTON, S. C. — Nat Towles and his orchestra created a sensation here last week when they played for an informal ball, before a capacity crowd. The work of Miss Tiny Durham, petite song specialist, was outstanding.

GREENVILLE, N. C.—Adelaide Hall, former star of Lew Leslie's "Blackbirds," created a sensation here recently when she appeared at the Plaza Theatre. Miss Hall is on her first American tour. Her specialties were "Must Have That Man," "Digga Digga Doo," and "I Can't Give You Anything But Love, Baby."

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—After six weeks in Florida and the Southern States, Speed Webb and his orchestra are back under the banner of the American Orchestra Service Bureau.

Webb takes this means of publicly thanking the Southern Orchestra Co. for the tour, as well as various promoters and thousands of patrons. He can be reached from low on at 515 W. 7th street, Cincinnati, O.

ROBESON STARS IN LONDON PLAY

Copied from The New York T[illegible]

LONDON, April 11 — With[illegible] week the American Negro [illegible] Robeson, has appeared in the [illegible] of an African chief both on [illegible] stage and in a film. On Tu[illegible] he was seen in the premiere of [illegible] film "Sanders of the River" [illegible] Sunday night at the Arts Th[illegible] in the first of three performa[illegible] of an interesting African p[illegible] "Basalik," by Peter Garland, w[illegible] is the pseudonym of an Ameri[illegible] woman, Norma Murray, a pl[illegible] wright who for some time has [illegible] living in England.

For the first two acts Rob[illegible] has little to do, outwardly a [illegible] servant in the Governor's h[illegible] hold, but it develops he really [illegible] chief of the neighboring terri[illegible] who is there only for the pur[illegible] of learning the Governor's att[illegible] toward him. He carries away [illegible] Governor's wife, who is stro[illegible] attracted to him herself, a[illegible] hostage, as a means of learn[illegible] that attitude.

Robeson, as always was enth[illegible] astically received. Coral Brow[illegible] the wife and Wyndham Gold[illegible] the Governor both were exc[illegible] The play, produced with but [illegible] rehearsing by Robeson during [illegible] wind-up of his provincial con[illegible] tour, may have a regular run [illegible] Robeson is expecting to do [illegible] American Negro play, "Steve[illegible] at the Embassy Theater in Ma[illegible]

NEW [illegible]VUE AT [illegible] IN HARLEM

NEW YORK, April 11—The w[illegible] beginning Friday, April 12 bri[illegible] to the Apollo audiences a n[illegible] idea in stage shows with Clar[illegible] Robinsons' "Springtime Varieti[illegible] The Apollo's popular and fam[illegible] emcee, Ralph Cooper, heads [illegible] stage show with his own new [illegible] chestra of eighteen ace musici[illegible] The stage bill also features am[illegible] many acts the Three Little W[illegible] the last words in dancing. Th[illegible] Modes of Harmony, in Harm[illegible] DeLuxe, Isolla and Martin, da[illegible] sensationists, also Pigmant M[illegible] ham, Jimmie Baskette, and [illegible] lovely Apollo Rockets beauty c[illegible] us. On the screen, Chester Mo[illegible] and Ralph Morgan are starred [illegible] "I've Been Around," a delight[illegible] story of what it takes to get aro[illegible]

CHICK WEBB ON AIR WITH 3 SPOTS ON W[illegible]

NEW YORK, April 11 — Ch[illegible] Webb's splendid work on the [illegible] last fall and winter has been [illegible] warded with a return engagem[illegible] on WJZ at Radio City, and [illegible] time Chick and his musicians h[illegible] been given three periods a w[illegible] in response to the public dem[illegible] for their soothing rhythm. Ch[illegible] and his men can be heard Th[illegible] days, 4:45-5:15; Fridays, 4:[illegible] and Saturdays, 4:45-5:15.

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