

Bea Lillie, Gardiner Will Match Wits In Revue at Metropolitan

By LOUIS R. GUZZO

ALTHOUGH the impish Beatrice Lillie trod the boards, particularly in Britain, Canada and the United States, nearly three decades she didn't find her ideal vehicle till her own revue, "An Evening With Beatrice Lillie," was run experimentally on a makeshift New England theater circuit in July, 1952.

The show, which will begin a week's run at The Metropolitan next Monday evening, opened the Broadway musical season last fall. Its producer, Edward Dowling and Miss Lillie weren't too confident of success for they booked the revue for five weeks only; it stayed on Broadway several months, after which it took to the road for a series of lucrative stands.

For the comedienne, the success of the show was a vindication of her belief that her strongest format lay in a variety production with the scent of vaudeville. She cherishes the words of Brooks Atkinson, drama critic of The New York Times, regarding her Broadway opening:

"Most of the material turns out to be new to New York. But the material is incidental to the keen mind and the acute technique of a vivid actress. Miss Lillie's own show is her masterpiece."

The Canadian-born entertainer, a star of many musicals in London and New York, has had many offers in the past two years to shelve her revue for a big-production musical, but she hasn't wavered. As a result, she is a happier Beatrice Lillie and perhaps a richer one.

Train Imitation Gave Gardiner Prominence

FEATURED with Miss Lillie is a comedian whose droll wit complements her own. Reginald Gardiner was a successful actor on the London stage in the 1920's but it was an imitation of a train that elevated him to international prominence and brought him a long career in Hollywood.

The imitation was born on the spur of the moment as he prepared to address students at his old school in Shrewsbury, England. When told the assembly would prefer to be entertained rather than lectured, Gardiner grasped at the first thought entering his mind, the train that had taken him to Shrewsbury. He began:

"When you board a train to and from school, do you realize how the train hates you? Listen to the sound it makes."

As he told his story of the furious train, his audience furnished roars of laughter. Soon he was performing the skit for the British Broadcasting Co. and for royalty at benefit shows. The imitation won him notice in the United States. Before long he was in films, where it was discovered Gardiner was an accomplished actor and comedian, in addition to being an imitator of an infuriated train.

Our recollection is hazy regarding the title of the film—was it "Born to Dance" or "Animal Kingdom"?—but we'll never forget the hysterically funny skit Gardiner did in imitation of an orchestra leader. After several minutes of exhaustive effort in cueing brasses and strings, he fell backward like a stricken tree. He will do the skit in the Bea Lillie stage show. The train imitation is on the program, too.

Supporting Miss Lillie and Gardiner will be Shannon Dean and Xenia Bank, who are featured in sketches titled "The Star's First Night" and "References"; Eddie and Rack, two-piano team, and John Philip, vocalist.

Philharmonic Will Present 'Elijah'

The Seattle Philharmonic and Choral Society, directed by Don Bushell, will present Mendelssohn's "Elijah" at its tenth-anniversary concert May 11 at Sharples Junior High School.

The group consists of 100 voices and a 72-piece orchestra. Mark Baer, baritone, will sing the part of Elijah. The Mendelssohn work was presented by the Philharmonic group at its first concert ten years ago.

Jean Herbert, soprano soloist at the Temple de Hirsch and director of the Japanese Baptist Choir, will sing one of the principal soprano roles. Miss Herbert sang leading roles in the Northwest Grand Opera Co.'s production of "Marriage of Figaro" and the Civic Opera Association's presentation of "Costi Fan Tutte" last year.

Other soprano roles will be sung by Virginia Johnson, Hunter, Eleanor Feaman and Eleanor Clearman. Other soloists will be Fannie Dammann, Elizabeth Paeth and Mary Dolley, contraltos; Chester Buhl and Forrest Snyder, tenors, and Jack Rodewald and Franklin Badgley, basses.

Harvey Gets Role
Paul Harvey has been set by Columbia for the role of an Air Force colonel in the Cinema-Scope musical, "Three for the Show."

Star Swims in Tea
Jane Russell swam in a pool of tea instead of water in the filming of "The Big Rainbow." The purpose of the tea was to give the illusion of sun reflecting on water.



PIANIST: John Ericson plays the role of a young pianist in "Rhapsody," M-G-M's technical musical at The Music Box.



AT ORPHEUM: Shelley Winters plays a leading role in "Saskatchewan," adventure drama, at The Orpheum.

Hollywood Today: June Allyson in Line For 'Not as a Stranger'

By SHEILAH GRAHAM
North American Newspaper Alliance
HOLLYWOOD, April 29. — June Allyson is the girl most likely to play the nurse, Christina, opposite Robert Mitchum in Stanley Kramer's production, "Not As a Stranger."

Gene Autry will be the next star to be toasted and roasted by the Masquers Club on May 29. It will mark the first time Gene's been in town long enough for the club to build a fire to roast him.

Elizabeth Taylor can begin "The Last Time I Saw Paris" next Monday. Her leg came out of its cast yesterday.

Taylor Holmes, old-time star and now working in "Tobor," a science-fiction movie at Republic, is huddling with a top publishing firm in the East over his memoirs.

Bing Crosby's real reason for canceling his trip abroad is the active interest on the part of all four of his sons in girls. These are true-blue chips off the old block. He does not want any of them to enter into hasty marriage.

Joan Crawford parted with Mel Dinell, Erik Blythe and Liza Wilson at the Sportsman's Lodge, with Joan singing until the wee hours at the piano. She's happy.

Which reminds me: While in New York last week, I had a chat with Franchot Tone. His "Oh, Men! Oh, Women!" is still clicking on Broadway. Franchot, happier than I've seen him in years, has returned from a hunting trip with his two sons at Burgess Meredith's farm.

Vaughn Monroe has been offered a TV Western series built around a singing sheriff.

Phyllis Kirk has postponed her trip to England again; she's making plenty of money on her TV shows.

Frankie Laine's "The Kid's Last Fight" is almost certain to be his eighth record to sell more than 1,000,000 copies.

A. C. Blumenthal, who linked 20th Century to Fox, is taking things easy—heart trouble.

Seventy per cent of the films shown in Germany are American, made in Hollywood.

Night-club commitments will force Tony Martin to do his first two TV shows in New York.

John Ireland and Joanne Dru are considering doing a Broadway musical, "Sailors' Delight."

Richard Widmark has won the "Golden Mike" award for his great performance on "Suspense."

The ex-Mrs. Dagnet, Julie London, and Bobby Troupe are a permanent fixture these evenings at Charlie Morrison's Mocombo.

Fred Astaire's wife is very ill after a serious operation.

Paramount is following a new policy of leading pictures with top stars. The line-up for "Angels Cooking" — Humphrey Bogart, Ray Milland, Gig Young, Irene Dunne, Pat Crowley and Bob Stack. The same day the director Mike Curtiz finishes "The Egyptian" at 20th-Fox, he'll jump right over to get the angels flying at Paramount.

Eleanor Holm will star in the Elliott Murphy Aquacade for four weeks, after which Cinema will shoot it for a movie short. Eleanor tells me she's working mostly to keep marriage off her mind.

Jane Morgan, singer, has two millionaires—Arthur Olson and Charles Wilson—chasing her all over the world. Object—matrimony. Wilson flew from Argentina to Florida to England to Las Vegas, trying for a "Yes."

Film Turned Down
Greer Garson is wanted by 20th-Fox for "Black Widow," with Maggie MacNamara. With Greer had to say "No"—she's too busy.

Sherese North signed for a lot of money at 20th, but she's not happy. The studio put on "lay-off," refused to loan her to Columbia for "Phifft" and wouldn't let her go on the road with Martin and Lewis. She had to turn down the lead in the "Ziegfeld Follies" in Las Vegas, too.

300 Pupils Enter Piano Auditions

Three hundred piano pupils will participate in auditions offered by the National Guild of Piano Teachers from May 7 to May 23 at Sherman Clay & Co. Siegfried Schultze, concert pianist and Los Angeles piano instructor, has been chosen to act as adjudicator. Schultze has studied and taught in Vienna, Berlin, Bremen and at the Academy for Music and Theater in Hanover, Germany.

Pupils from Puyallup, Kirkland, North Bend, Everett and Seattle will participate in the auditions. A number of classifications have been established. Each student will receive a pin, certificate and report card if they pass the required test.

Mrs. Frances Duffy, local chairman of the organization and Mrs. James Boswell will act as monitor.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY
"Mahatma Gandhi," documentary film, 4, 7 and 9 p. m., U. W. Health Sciences Auditorium.

"Claudia," by Franken, 8:30 p. m., Cornish Theater.

"De Profundis," a motet by La Lande for five-part chorus, string ensemble and organ, presented by the University of Washington and the Henry Gallery, directed by Miriam Terry and featuring Ellen Christensen at the organ, 12:15 p. m., Henry Gallery.

FRIDAY
Youth Symphony Orchestra, directed by Francis Aranyi, featuring works of Bach, Tschai-kowsky, Copland, Gershwin and Smetana, 8:30 p. m., Roosevelt High School.

"Othello," by Shakespeare, 8:30 p. m., University Playhouse.

"Bernardine," by Chase, 8:30 p. m., Showboat.

"Penelope," by Maughan, 8:30 p. m., Penthouse.

"Ladies in Retirement," by Lodge and Denham, 8:30 p. m., Cornish Theater.

"Giulietta," by Franken, 8:30 p. m., Cornish Theater.

Milburn Stone will enact Captain John J. Pershing, later to become General Pershing, in "The Long Gray Line."

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"PACIFIC DRUMS"



'CLAUDIA': Joanne Chase will play the title role when the Seattle Civic Theater opens its run of "Claudia" at 8:30 tonight at Cornish Theater. Performances also scheduled for tomorrow and Saturday evenings and May 6, 7 and 8.

Actress Signs Contracts

Because of international regulations, Maureen O'Hara had to sign 26 different contracts before she could go from Hollywood to Tangier to star in the technicolor film, "Fire Over Africa."

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Guide to First-Run Films

BLUE MOUSE: "Glenn Miller Story"—Music, humor and a warm love story—(P. M.) 12:25, 2:50, 5:10, 7:35, 10.
COLISEUM: "Arrow in the Dust"—A game of darts—Injun style—(P. M.) 12:05, 3:10, 6:15, 9:20; (A. M.) 12:25, 3:30.
Second feature, "Loophole" (P. M.) 1:30, 4:35, 7:40, 10:45; (A. M.) 1:50.
FIFTH AVENUE: "Prince Valiant"—The trials and tribulations of knighthood—(P. M.) 12, 2:05, 4:10, 6:15, 8:20, 10:20.
LIBERTY: "Riding Shotgun"—Randolph Scott waits for justice with a loaded pistol—(A. M.) 11; (P. M.) 1:50, 4:45, 7:45, 10:40. Second feature, "Duffy of San Quentin" (P. M.)—12:20, 3:15, 6:10, 9:10.

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THE BIG ACADEMY AWARD WINNING PICTURE WITH ITS AWARD WINNING STARS
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