

Walter Winchell London Hit Play Proves N. Y. Sell-Out

THE BROADWAY LIGHTS
FIRST-NIGHTS: "Reclining Figure" (nee "Reclining Nude") was the week's lone entry to the white light night district via the Lyceum theater Thursday night... A giddy caricature of the art world's highbrows and low morals... You may enjoy it—even if you do not know your Picasso from your Dali... The News' John Chapman found it "a smooth and easy comedy" while the Herald-Tribune's Kerr decided it was "rapid brew"... The aisle-men were generally friendly toward Libby Homan's limited stand at the Bijou for her one woman show, "Blues, Ballads and Sin Songs"... The homicide squad has a full week. Tomorrow's "On Your Toes" (a revival with Vera Zorina) will be followed by "Fragile Fox," "Tender Trap" and "Sing Me No Lullaby"... "The Boy Friend" is selling out (echoing its London chick) despite some of us who found a lot of it yawny... Variety reminds you it was "the gladioli girl" number in "Lend an Ear" until the current parents stretched it into a full evening. "The Boy Friend," adds the show-business bible, "is unlikely to become a major smash, even with enthusiastic reviews. It'll leave many showgoers cold."



ELAINE STEWART
Touch of Magic

IN THE WINGS: It happened at one of the dull premieres. A critic tumbled out of his aisle pew. "You fall asleep?" asked a colleague. "No, damn it!" was the groan. "I fell awake"... Red Buttons was surprised to hear "Fanny" is a musical show. He thought it was a hurricane.

THE MAGIC LANTERNS: Frank Sinatra stars in "Suddenly" playing a Brando-tough Bogart-rough killer. The melo has the shocking quality of a shot-in-the-dark, albeit several brutal episodes are hardly substitute for

entertainment... Enjoyable in All Babaville, Elaine Stewart displays more magic than Aladdin's entire cast... "The Sleeping Tiger" probably read its yawning-inducing script... "Woman's World" is the New Yorkiest movie. Better than picture postcards.

THE BROADWAY HOLLYWOOD LINE: Ida Lupino is being wooed by the landlords of "The Journey." They want her to direct its Broadway showing. Ilona Massey will star. Alce Guinness is threatening his British film bosses that he will desert to Movietown unless they agree to his terms... The Mirror critic said Rene Clair's comedy "A Nous la Liberté" (at the Art) is "a shining example of cinema excellence"... Joan Vohs, who usually plays sinful roles in movies, is a Sabbath schoolmarm at St. Mary of the Angels Church... Hollywood has an actress named Mary Trouble-in-Front. She's an Indian maiden... The high price of legal white slavery: "The Barefoot Contessa" producer paid MGM \$200,000 to borrow Ava for the leading role... In Irving Berlin's upcoming Zanuck movie ("There's No Business Like Show Business") Marilyn Monroe sings "After You've Got What You Want—You Don't Want It."

THE MARILYN-JOE STORY: All the experts blame Hollywood for the marriage-flop of the season. In short: Joe couldn't take it and Marilyn wouldn't leave it. "The split-up would never have happened if they weren't famous," reported Marcel Perret. Neither would their marriage... Headline: "Breakup Caused by Joe's jealousy." We doubt if all her success turned his head when all his never did... The press blamed the parting on DiMaggio's sitting home waiting for Marilyn. We guess Joe couldn't take being a wife instead of a husband. Her press conference was attended by 300 newspaper people. That's more than the normal coverage of the President's press confabs... The N. Y. Times' old-maid resistance to temptation is impressive. It refused to give front-page notice to the story of the week... The theory that it is impossible to reconcile the conflicting careers and interests of Joe and his wife seems (at this writing) to have been debunked by Leo Durocher and Laraine Day.

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THE TELEBRITIES: CBS' "The Line Up" strives to show that crime doesn't pay while swiping the style of "Dragnet." It apes Webb's tight-lipped hamming and its theme echoes dum-dee-dum-dum... We enjoy Durante and Jackson even when their program is only so-so which it was opening night. George Gobel's easy-does-it fooling offers something uniquely welcome: intelligent humor... "December Bride" joined the home-spun clique. A superior hokum show... Imogene Coca should sue her writers for non-support... Groucho conveys a friendlier manner insulting his contestants than those charm-boy quiz-masters, who peddle radiance with every toothy grin.

THE STORY-TELLERS: Jane Russell fulfills her mission of making the world more attractive. She enhances Cosmopolitan's cover, a full page in woman's Home. Comp and his spread across two pages of Esquire. (Quite a spread)... That same Mac's 8-page peep-show of Anita Ekberg will make women gasp and men grool... Playing teevie quiz-games is profitable, according to American Mag. It reveals Arlene Frances' annual income: \$300,000... Bold Mag reports the discovery of Miss Monroe's double on Page 31... And by golly, you will think so, too. Her name is Maria Stinger, a Miami model... The week's swell timing award goes to Modern Screen. It has an article warning that career conflicts endanger the Joe-Marilyn marriage... Herman Wouk has delivered his new novel (to Doubleday), the first since "Caine Mutiny". The title: "Marilyn Morningstar," a love story. Publication, spring '53.

THE PRESS BOX: Headline: "Schoolkids in Washington DC draw color line"... They never learned that in any American schoolbooks? Will someone please put a blindfold over Abe's eyes?... Howcum in Hollywood they always seem to know what made a marriage flop and never seem to know what made a marriage succeed? Jealous Joe didn't want to be Marilyn's co-star. Just her husband!... Sudden thawt: The thing that makes the Joe-Marilyn divorce so different: The only home they ever broke up was their own... With all the publicity that girls' names are getting (by naming hurricanes after females) we hear Zsa-Zsa can't wait till they get down to the Z's... The only thing the Senate proved in the McCarthy case is that the Communists are still doing pretty good in Washington.

THE INTELLIGENTSIA: "The Boy Friends" investors include the daughters of the Sunday Times ed. Old radio stars never die, etc.: Tommy Riggs (the voice of Betty Lou), once a major network name—is now a disc jockey in Pittsburgh... A good British telecaster averages only 30 lbs. a week. That's 84 bux in God's country money... Allan Herscholt titled the book about his father: "The Unmelancholy Dane"... The man who wrote "C'mona My House" (Ross Bagdasarian) has a new ditty: "All I Want is a Thee and a Thee Some," which Margaret Whiting will make a hit.

(Walter Winchell is a regular feature of the Daily Record.)



STAN KENTON, whose orchestra will feature the Festival of Modern Jazz at Symphony Hall, this evening. There will be two shows, 7 and 9:45 p. m. The Art Tatum Trio and other stars also will appear.

Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo
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LYNN FONTANNE and Alfred Lunt in "Quadrille," the new Noel Coward comedy which will come to the Colonial on Thursday, Oct. 14, for a stay of two and a half weeks.



DUKE ELLINGTON, who will present an evening of "Ellingtonia" next Sunday, Oct. 17, in Symphony Hall at 7 p. m. and 10 p. m. Appearing with Ellington will be Stan Getz and his Quartet, pianist Dave Brubeck and his Quartet and the Quartet of baritone saxist Gerry Mulligan.



JACQUES TATI, celebrated French comedian, reserved a room with a picture window in the hotel attic in "Mr. Hulot's Holiday," the hilarious film in fourth week at the Exeter.

Ballet Russe At Opera House
The appearance of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo at the Opera House this week will be notable for several reasons. Most important to ballet followers will be Leonide Massine's new symphonic ballet "Harold in Italy." Massine has earned himself an immortal niche in the long history of dance by his development of the symphonic ballet as a separate form. His first symphonic ballet was "Les Presages" to Tchaikowsky's Fifth Symphony in 1933 for the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. This was followed by six other remarkable symphonic works.

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BILLIE NELSON, one of the attractions of "Getting Gertie's Garter," the bouffant farce revival at the Majestic.



TONY CURTIS as Sir Jyles Falworth in "Black Shield of Falworth," U-I's Technicolor CinemaScope spectacle, with Janet Leigh, at the Memorial.



LANA TURNER in a scene from MGM's thriller, "Betrayed," co-starring Clark Gable, opening next Thursday at Loew's State and Orpheum.



ROBERT TAYLOR and George Raft in "Rogue Cop," rough-tough chiller, opening Tuesday at the Pilgrim.



HUMPHREY BOGART and Audrey Hepburn in "Sabrina," slick and highly entertaining comedy at the Astor.

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George Clarke Behind the Scenes As Show Is Born

WHEN YOU PAINT A PICTURE you first size the canvas. Then you lay in the design, a very rough approximation of what is to be the finished work. When that has been done, with due heed to composition, contrasts, tone and other things you begin with the colors.



HAROLD ROME
"What we've been up to"

It's rough in the early stages, but then, little by little, the magic of creation works itself out.

So you produce and direct a play or a musical, such as the news-making production of "Fanny," written by Josh Logan, S. N. Behrman and Harold Rome from three stories of life in the French port of Marseilles, gateway to the Orient, by the Frenchman, Marcel Pagnol. Ezio Pinza and Walter Slezak are co-stars.

The play was here for three weeks before its closing last night, and is now on its way to Philadelphia, where it will play three weeks more before going on to Broadway. Despite reserved reviews and a most violent controversy—some hated it, others adored it—it was virtually impossible to get tickets for any performance here. They were quoted as high as \$50 a pair, and in one transaction, known to Your Reporter, Suffolk Downs' Judge Pappas paid \$200 for eight—and didn't like it at all.

During the engagement a new choreographer was rushed up from New York, the cast was in almost constant rehearsal, and changes, some drastic, were made daily. What happens during such a period? How is a \$300,000 play put together again, not once but many times? What are the reasons for the changes, and how are they made?

AND THE ABOVE questions are just about the same as were put to Harold Rome, the composer and lyricist, over steaks drenched in garlic served in a reasonably quiet corner of a jam-packed Vienna Room at Steubens. Let him give the answers: "Our first problem was time," he said. "We knew the play was half an hour too long the night it opened, but that's the way Josh Logan works. And that's the way I stayed until we were sure what parts the public didn't want. Then the cuts were made. It took only an hour or so to decide what was to come out, what was to stay in. "We felt that the girl was too colorless," Harold continued. "She was just too good to be true. So a scene was inserted to give her more life—yes, more sex appeal. "There was a feeling that Pinza didn't have enough to do. We found that was wrong, that he has plenty to do, and that he is a great, a magnificent actor. "Some felt that he wasn't singing enough. So we put in more songs, and told him to let loose. "And in another scene he now dances. Yes, Pinza dances, and well!"

THE CHARACTER of Marius, the boy, whose yer to run away to sea makes the play possible, seemed to need humanizing. The part played by Walter Slezak, a great role which he plays to the hilt, hasn't been touched.

"You see, there has never been anything like this show," says Harold. "There is no basis for comparison with anything ever done before. "In that lies its greatness. I'm confident that 10 years from now it will still be played."

ALL THE PRINCIPALS are under 3-year contracts. "So that's what we have been up to," says Harold, adding: "That's why we came to Boston, where we knew we'd find the best audience in America. "That's the kind of audience we've had here, and we're grateful."

(George Clarke's column is a regular feature of the Daily Record.)

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