

Broadway After Dark

By WARD MOREHOUSE

Plays for Christmas Week.

Broadway's Christmas week schedule is still subject to change, to sudden bookings and to managerial whim, but it is likely that the holiday openings will total five or six. Final decision on two productions is to be expected over the week end. First-nighters will probably be paying another visit to the Playhouse; "Land's End" closes there this evening.

These are the offerings now listed for the week of December 23:

"Wonderful Journey," Coronet Theater, Christmas night.

"Burlesque" (Best Laugh) Beja Theater, Christmas night.

"Beggars' Holiday" Broadway Theater, Thursday, December 26.

"Temper the Wind," dramatic play.

"Finian's Rainbow," musical play.

"Topitzky of Notre Dame," musical production.

No decision yet on bookings for "The Temporary Mrs. Smith," which finishes a week's engagement in Toronto this evening.

"Love Goes to Press," comedy from London, is to arrive January 7.

Next Week's Opening

Thursday—"Androcles and the Lion," play by Bernard Shaw, will be offered by the American Repertory Theater at the International. The players include Ernest Truex, June Dupre, Victor Jory, Richard Waring, John Beecher, Marion Eversen, Arthur Keegan, Eugene Stuckman, Robert Rawlings, Raymond Greenleaf, Philip Bourneuf and William Windom. Staged by Margaret Webster; costumes and scenery designed by Wolfgang Roth; music by Marc Blitzstein; animal heads and masks by Remo Bufano.

"Androcles" will be preceded by "Prouds on Demand," short play by Sean O'Casey. Staged by Victor Jory. The players include Cavada Humphrey, Philip Bourneuf, Ernest Truex, Margaret Webster and Eugene Stuckman.

IT HAPPENED IN N. Y.—(on this very date in 1914).

"Driven," a play in four acts by E. Temple Thurston, was presented by Charles Frohman at the Empire. William Seymour did the staging. The players included Charles Bryant, Leslie Faber, Lumsden Hare, T. W. Percival, Arthur Greenaway, Alexandra Carlisle, Haldee Wright, Rita Otway.

A strong company, that Frohman cast for "Driven," but the play didn't do less than a month's run. Several nights before "Driven" arrived Charles Dillingham's production of "Watch Your Step," with music and lyrics by Irving Berlin, came into the new Amsterdam. It was a big hit.

DEPARTING DRAMA.

"Dream Girl," Elmer Rice's successful comedy, in which June Havoc has been playing the title role since Betty Field left the cast, closes its long engagement at the Coronet this evening.

"A Flag Is Born," Ben Hecht's propaganda drama for a free Palestine, which has shown an extraordinary vitality, will be withdrawn at the Broadway after tonight's performance. The production goes on an extensive tour, opening in Chicago Christmas night.

"Land's End," Thomas Job drama, which opened Wednesday evening at the Playhouse, closes tonight after five performances.

RANDOM DRAMATICS.

Arnold Moss, who gave a very impressive performance in "The Tempest," has hopes of coming forth as King Lear during the current season.

Howard Lang has deferred "Tears for the Bride," play by Martin Berkeley, until Sir Cedric Hardwicke is available as a director.

"Snow Boat" begins its final three weeks at the Ziegfeld Monday.

Dwight Deere Wiman, who has occupied the top floor of the Playhouse Theater Building for twenty-odd years, takes over new quarters in the Adelphi Theater Building, beginning Monday.

The new production firm of Nelson L. Gross and Ferris Hartman announces "They Liked Then Handsome," musical play by Stephen Longstreet. "The Story of Mary Surratt" is the new title of the John Patrick play which has been known as "This Gentle Ghost." David Manners will succeed Henry Daniell in "Lady Windermere's Fan" next week.

DO YOU REMEMBER—

When the Princess in 39th street, because of the presence of the Holbrook Blinn Grand Guignol play, was known as the "Theater of Thrills?"

When there was afternoon dancing at the Cafe Boulevard, Broadway and 41st street?

When Raub's, a leading Brooklyn restaurant at Flatbush avenue and Fulton street, promised "a jolly time and a good dinner?"

When Shanley's offered a "cabaret extraordinary" with twenty acts?

When Olga Nethersole was headlining in vaudeville in the third act of her famous "Sapho"?

The New Movie

Sydney Greenstreet and Peter Lorre in a Slow-moving Murder Drama, 'The Verdict.'

"The Verdict" moves with leisure, much in the mood of its period. This new tale of murder, on the Strand screen, takes place in an old city. London has always seemed the perfect spot for a murder mystery, the reign of Victoria the perfect time. "The Verdict" saunters through a few months of the Victorian era, covers a murder or two, uncovers a few neat tricks.

This is a slow-moving picture, without dash or any violent suspense. It is also, unless, cleverer than most, you have guessed the tricks early in the game, a mystery that holds the interest. There is no one about whom to care. There is no emotional pull. There is just a trick, with plenty of atmosphere and a few amusing characters for good measure.

The central figure is just right for an English tale of murder. Here is Sydney Greenstreet, the fat man in a sympathetic role as a retired because he's caused an innocent man to be hanged. The old inspector is surrounded with odd friends, including three men, an artist, a politician, and the nephew of a murdered woman. This trio occupy apartments in the same house. They are acquaintances, far from friendly. The murder of one, however, involves the others.

Peter Lorre, Paul Cavanagh and Morton Lowry play these

neighbors, with Rosalind Ivan as their gossipy, tipping landlady. Joan Loring, as a cabaret singer, gets mixed up with the murder. So does a new Scotland Yard inspector, a would-be fellow played by George Coulouris. This is a capable cast, somewhat lost, perhaps, on a story that depends upon tricks, rather than dramatic situations.

The Strand's vaudeville features Vincent Lopez's Orchestra, Artie Dann, the Three Arnauts, and that bright young singer, Janis Paige, who'll be seen on the Strand screen soon in "The Time, the Place and the Girl."

Local Screen News

"Jericho," a French production of the resistance of the French underground during the Nazi occupation, will have its first American showing at the 85th Street Playhouse. The picture, accompanied by English songs, was directed by Henri Clouzot from a screen story by Claude Heymann and Charles Spak. The players include Pierre Brasseur, Genia Palko, Larquey and Jean Brocard.

James Mason and Ann Todd, co-stars of "The Seventh Veil," begin their four-day run today at the Art Theater. "The 32d Street" runs today through Monday offers "My Life with Caroline," with Ronald Colman. "Lucky Partners," with Ginger Rogers and Ronald Colman, will have its first American showing today through Monday at the 85th Street Playhouse.

"Blindfold" believed to be the first post-liberation French film to reach the part of the American G. I. is showing that nation's freedom, in the first of eight feature films to be imported by the newly formed Western Hemisphere Films Company. The film, equipped with English titles, will have its American premiere early next year.

Charles Laughton, for several years in



Her latest Warner film is Fannie Hurst's "Humoresque," which is to open Christmas day at the Hollywood Theater.

Dr. Wang Marries.

Shanghai, Dec. 14 (A. P.).—Dr. C. T. Wang, former Premier of China and one-time Ambassador to Washington, was married today to Mrs. Dorothy A. Liu, widow of the late C. S. (Burma) Liu.

STAGE PLAYS

Menasha Skulnik
In the Playhouse
"The Man in Love"

APOLLO
Luis Russell
Lee Richardson

N. Y. POULTRY SHOW
December 14 and 15
Prize winning
Bantams-Turkeys, Game Birds, etc.
12th Regiment Armory, 125 W. 14th St.
12 to 7:30 P. M. Each Day
Admission: 50c Plus Tax

STAGE PLAYS

LAST 4 TIMES! Final Performance
2 Shows TODAY & TOMW 2:30
"Kissed and Kissed" Her. Trib.
JACOB BEN-AMI
A FLAG IS BORN
BEN HECHT'S DRAMATIC TRIUMPH
BROADWAY THEATRE, 87th St. Cl. 7-2827

AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATRE
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Movie News.

The Avenue Playhouse is showing "The Well-Digger's Daughter" for a twelfth week beginning today. . . . Entering a second week today at the Grand Illusion is "Carnival in Flanders," at the Fifth Avenue Playhouse.

Larry Parks, of "The Jolson Story" and the forthcoming "The Swordsman," is in town for a short stay. . . . Mel Tormé, whose last movie appearance was in "Night and Day," "Grand Illusion" and "Carnival in Flanders," at the Fifth Avenue Playhouse.

Samuel Goldwyn's "The Best Years of Our Lives" is in its fourth week at the Astor. . . . "Brief Encounter" enters its seventeenth week today at the Little Carnegie Playhouse. . . . Arnold Pressburger, motion picture producer, sails on the Queen Elizabeth today for a three months' trip to England, France and Italy. While in Italy he will search for outdoor locations for the shooting of Somerset Maugham's "Then and Now," which will be his next production.

The Hon. Norman J. O. Makin, Ambassador of Australia in the United States, announces that he will sponsor an invitational Australian production of the Australian film "The Overlanders" at the Rialto Theater on the evening of Thursday, December 19.

"The Magnificent Doll," co-starring Ginger Rogers, David Niven and Burgess Meredith, enters its second week today at the Rialto Theater. . . . Katharine Hepburn and Robert Taylor, starring in "Undercurrent," at the Capitol, are in their final week.

RKO NOW

ROSLIND RUSSELL
Sister Kenny

GARY COOPER
The Westerner

RKO NOW

DOROTHY MCGUIRE
ROBERT YOUNG
CLAUDIA AND DAVID

SCOTT BARI GARNER
Home Sweet Homicide

RKO NOW

ALBEE
3 LITTLE GIRLS IN BLUE

RKO NOW

TYRONE POWER
JOHN PAYNE
ANN BAXTER
CLIFF WEBB
HERBERT MARSHALL

The Razor's Edge

RKO NOW

FRANK CAGUE
FRANKIE CAGUE
VAL SETZ
SLATE BROS.

Capital

RKO NOW

IRVING BERLIN'S
BLUE SKIES

STAN KENTON
DEAN MURPHY
THE KING COLE TRIO

RKO NOW

JOHN FORD'S
MY DARLING CLEMENTINE

HENRY FONDA • LINDA BARNELL • VICTOR MATURE
Directed by JOHN FORD • Produced by SAMUEL G. BRON

RKO NOW

THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD

RKO NOW

THE CHASE

RKO NOW

BOB HOPE • JOAN CASTLEFIELD
SWAMP FIRE

RKO NOW

NOTORIOUS

LOEW'S

STATE VAN JOHNSON
HIS 'NO LEAVE, NO LOVE'

VALERIE
THREE WISE FOOLS

LOEW'S

THE KILLERS

LOEW'S

SMOKEY

LOEW'S

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

"Till the Clouds Roll By"

LOEW'S

GINGER ROGERS • DAVID NIVEN in
"Magnificent Doll"

LOEW'S

WINTER GARDEN

REX HARRISON
LILLI PALMER
"NOTORIOUS GENTLEMAN"

LOEW'S

OPEN ALL NITE TILL 4 AM!

LOEW'S

Wanted for MURDER

LOEW'S

LAURENCE OLIVIER in
HENRY V

LOEW'S

Walt Disney's
SONG OF THE SOUTH

LOEW'S

Blithe Spirit

LOEW'S

STUDIO CITY

FRANCOISE ROSAY