

THEATER

'Beggars' Holiday, Full of Vigor, Opens at the Broadway Theater

John Gay's old 'Beggars' Opera, (fitted out with new music by Duke Ellington and new lyrics by John A. Touche, is now to be seen as 'Beggars' Holiday,' a picturesque, earthy and fantastically cynical musical drama, at the Broadway Theater. Mr. La Touche takes a dim view of the world and hammers out his opinion insistently, as if he were afraid some one might suspect him of being too young to think of such things. Curiously enough he manages to be gay about it, too, and 'Beggars' Holiday' is a phenomenon often compelling, always virile, most of the time impetuous and aimless.

house, who, two-timed by the hero-villain, puts the finger on him. Oliver Smith contributes astonishing settings, big and striking and of great mechanical proficiency. Everything has been done to give the production a fine esthetic kick. The story is more picture than plot, a picture of people, white and black, who know of no way but living save by the dog-eat-dog system. Their clothes are curious and brilliant, as suits musical comedy, but their days are spent on the unlovely tracks of the railroad tracks, and some of them have become expert in the activities open to them. The young top man makes love to all the women with one set of words, then spends the rest of the story running from the police.

There are scenes on fire-escapes, in Jenny's bright establishment, at the home of the politician, in a hobo jungle, in jail and elsewhere, all rich in color and movement. The best of the songs are 'The Scrimmage of Life,' 'The Wrong Side of the Railroad Tracks,' 'Tomorrow Mountain.' Some of the singers can't do much with the music. Avon Long and Marie Bryant sing it well.

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SCREEN

By Herbert Cohn

'The Time, the Place and the Girl,' Technicolor Musical, at N. Y. Strand

Remember the days before "Night and Day," "The Jolson Story" and "Till the Clouds Roll By" when a collection of songs and dances, prettied-up with Technicolor and stuck haphazardly to a feeble romance, passed as a movie musical? The Time, the Place and the Girl, which moved into the N. Y. Strand Theater yesterday, opens up old wounds. It's one of the old school. Though there was a nice assortment of youthful laughter at the Strand yesterday, the cause of it was more likely the holiday spirit than the quality of the new film. Except for S. Z. Sakall, of whom most people are slow to tire despite the repetition of his routine, there is nothing particularly comical in "The Time, the Place and the Girl." It is merely a blend of a couple of oldies—one that stacks a pair of five boys against an amazed long-haired girl, and the other that finds an enthusiastic musical-comedy company plotting to trap a likely caddy. The mold grows thickly.

"The Time, the Place and the Girl" also is a reminder that musical movies once used to get by with clapping scores. It offers a good example with a half dozen tunes that Arthur Schwartz and Leo Robin, no amateurs at setting catchy words to equally catchy music, turned out during some of their less-inspired moments. At least one of their songs bears a startling resemblance to a well-established hit—"A Thousand Miles" in "Girl in Calico" and "A Rainy Night in Rio" more original; are not what could be called distinguished. And the team's one good one—a black-face routine called "A Solid Citizen of the Solid South"—is spoiled by its distasteful caricaturing of two Negro singers. That is not much of a record for Schwartz and Robin.

Leo Prinz, who staged the dances in "Night and Day," makes a better showing than all but Mr. Sakall in "The Time, the Place and the Girl." With the help of a batch of good-looking chorines, he gets color and a reasonable amount of attractive pattern into two sets of specialty scenes that are sandwiched into the commonplace script like a triple-decker made out of day-before-yesterday's bread.

Dennis Morgan, Jack Carson, Janis Paige, Martha Vickers, Florence Bates and Alan Hale take part in the Strand's new film, but they contribute little that is helpful. Most of the load they leave for Mr. Sakall to shoulder.

Vaughn Monroe's orchestra and Johnny Mack are the featured acts in the N. Y. Strand's stage presentation.

'Finian's Rainbow' Tickets Go on Sale Seats for "Finian's Rainbow" go on sale today at the 46th St. Theater where the new E. V. Harburg-Fred Saldy-Burton Lane musical will open on Friday evening, Jan. 10. It features Ella Logan, Albert Sharpe, David Wayne, Anita Alvarez, Donald Richards and the Lynn Murray Singers.

Paramount Bing Crosby Fred Astaire Joan Caulfield in Irving Berlin's "Blue Skies" in Technicolor

Warner's Strand Joan Crawford John Garfield in "Humoresque" in Technicolor

Warner's Strand Betty Davis Paul Henreid Claude Rains in "Deception" in Technicolor

Warner's Strand Laurence Olivier Henry V in Technicolor

Warner's Strand James Mason Patricia Roc in "The Wicked Lady" in Technicolor

Bing and Ingrid Top Tinklers of Cash Registers Hollywood, Dec. 27 (AP)—Crooner Bing Crosby and Actress Ingrid Bergman, his co-star in "The Belles of St. Mary's," reigned today as the year's biggest box-office money-makers.

Crosby fans swarmed to his three pictures in circulation during 1946—"The Belles of St. Mary's," "Road to Utopia" and "Blue Skies." Miss Bergman crashed the big ten for the first time, jumping from 13th place with four box-office hits—"The Belles of St. Mary's," "Notorious," "Spellbound" and "Saratoga Trunk"—in which she played everything from a nun to a beauty of questionable morals.

She took the place of bobby-soxer idol Van Johnson, who slipped one notch to third spot. In fourth was Gary Cooper, veteran of the 1946 list with eight straight appearances. Clark Gable, all-time winner with 12 successive times in a row before he went in the army, finished 13th this time.

Bob Hope, who's been on the list every year since 1941, grabbed the poll championship for top 10 repeats by a comedian. He came from seventh to fifth place this year. Humphrey Bogart placed sixth. Greer Garson was seventh, sliding from No. 3. Margaret O'Brien, only child star on the list, was eighth. Betty Grable was ninth, and Roy Rogers, first in the cowboy poll, took tenth.

Marches Resumed in 'Years Ago' Last Night After a three-day Christmas holiday with their children, Fredric March and his wife, Florence Eldridge, stars of "Years Ago," resumed their performances last night in the Ruth Gordon comedy at the Mansfield Theater.

Make Clementine Your Gala Holiday Date! Darryl F. Zanuck presents JOHN FORD'S MY DARLING CLEMENTINE Starring HENRY FONDA LINDA DARNELL VICTOR MATURE Directed by JOHN FORD Produced by SAMUEL G. ENGEL

DOORS OPEN 7:30 A.M. ALL THIS HOLIDAY WEEK! 20th Century-Fox Presents TYRONE POWER GENE TIERNY JOHN PAYNE ANNE BAXTER CLIFTON WEBB HERBERT MARSHALL Darryl F. Zanuck's production of W. SOMMERSET MAUGHAM'S The Razor's Edge On Stage! ROSARIO AND ANTONIO BOBANNON-EMMA OTERO SENOR WENCES

ROXY Special Late Complete Stage and Screen Show Tonight 10:45 P. M. 7th Ave. & 30th St. SHOWPLACE OF THE NATION RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL ROCKEFELLER CENTER "Glorious, colorful, memorable!"—MORTIMER, MIRROR "TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY" in Technicolor JUDY GARLAND-VAN JOHNSON-JUNE ALLYSON-ROBERT WALKER and many other stars—A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture and the MUSIC HALL'S GREAT CHRISTMAS STAGE SHOW "THE NATIVITY"—Famed pageant... and "GOOD SHIP HOLIDAY"—Produced by Leonid G. Symphony Orchestra directed by Charles Previn. Pictures: 7:38, 10:25, 1:15, 4:07, 7:00, 9:54. Stage Show: 9:38, 12:25, 3:15, 6:07, 9:00. DOORS OPEN SATURDAY AND MONDAY 7:30 A.M.

BEST AIR COMBAT FILMS OF WAR IN COLOR "THE LAST BOMB" SEE B-29s DROP THOUSANDS OF FIRE BOMBS ON TOKYO. THE ATOMIC BLASTING OF HIROSHIMA. THE EXPLOSION THAT ROCKED THE WORLD. SPECTACULAR NEWS FILMS OF 10 YEARS EMBASSY NEWSREEL 42nd St. & Park Ave. (Airlines Terminal) 46th St. & W'way 72nd St. & W'way 50th St. RADIO CITY-BROAD ST., NEWARK

Betty Hutton-Tutts "Cross My Heart" Andrews Sisters LES PAUL & HIS TRIO TONY PASTOR and TONY ASTOR

INTERNATIONAL PICTURES presents MERLE OBERON-GEORGE BRENT CHARLES KORVIN-PAUL LUKAS Temptation Loew's CRITERION

AT INTERBORO CIRCUIT BAY RIDGE THEATRE "THE KILLERS" and "COCKEYED MIRACLE" "SMOKY" and "SHADOW OF A WOMAN" "HOLIDAY IN MEXICO" and "THE UNKNOWN" "CLEOPATRA AND DAGGER" and "GENIUS AT WORK" "MONSIEUR BEUCAIRE" and "SWAMP FIRE"

HOLLYWOOD

By Jack Lait Jr.

Metro is trying to keep it a secret, but the insiders are whispering that Frank Sinatra has been throwing his weight around (what there is of it), and that if he doesn't pull in his horns and behave himself the studio will be very happy to hand him his walking papers. Band bookings in the Far West for this New Year's Eve are at an all-time low. Not only is night-club biz in a slump generally but the musicians' union local here has slithered itself out of a lot of possible work by hiking the holiday eve scale from \$25 to \$56.40 per man (for a four-hour stint) outside a 200-mile radius of the city.

Sir Cedric Hardwicke is grinning from ear to ear these days. He had that statement by an Eastern scientist that bald-headed men are the most virile—which, if true, would make Sir Cedric a man among men. Speaking of Sinatra, as we were up at the top, it's announced that his splitting up with the Old Gold people right after the turn of the year. Thus endeth one of the weirdest advertising tie-ups in the history of American merchandising—for, when you come to think of it, the overwhelming preponderance of Frankie's following was among those who don't use the product he was advertising.

Except for an occasional clandestine puff behind the old schoolhouse, the bobby-soxers could hardly be regarded as much of a potent force for algebra, yet the Old Gold masterminds selected the kiddie idol to advertise their wares. It's as though some one were to hire Caruso to peddle yo-yos, or Leslie Brooks was added yesterday to the cast of "The Coppe Game, C. O. D." Columbia's film version of columnist Jimmy Starr's novel, George Brent, Joan Blondell, Adele Jergens and Jim Bannon play the leading roles.

KRO A Musical delight to put a song in your heart! JUNE HAYER • GEO. MONTGOMERY VIVIAN BLAINE • CELESTE HOLM VERA-ELLEN • in TECHNICOLOR THREE LITTLE GIRLS IN BLUE ROY ROGERS and HIS TRIGGER GARY COOPER "THE WESTERNER" MY PAL TRIGGER ALBEE Olivia DeHavilland • Lew Ayres • "THE DARK MIRROR" JOE PALOOKA

LOEW'S LATE SHOWS TONIGHT AT THEATRES CHECKED MET Katharine HEPBURN • Robt. TAYLOR MITCHEM BETTY CO-ED JEAN FORSTER JEAN SAVITT

YODVIL KINGS "TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST" BEDFORD "PINKIE AND SARATOGA" APOLLON "VALPIRE, 80th St. & 5th Ave." COMPANY "BOYFRIEND, Bedford Ave. & 5th Ave." BORO PARK "COONEYVILLE, Bedford Ave. & 5th Ave." 2 B'ys "COONEYVILLE, Bedford Ave. & 5th Ave." 3 FOXES "COONEYVILLE, Bedford Ave. & 5th Ave." HOLIDAY "COONEYVILLE, Bedford Ave. & 5th Ave." KIDVIL "COONEYVILLE, Bedford Ave. & 5th Ave." PALACE "COONEYVILLE, Bedford Ave. & 5th Ave." TOMORROW "COONEYVILLE, Bedford Ave. & 5th Ave." RIDGE "COONEYVILLE, Bedford Ave. & 5th Ave."

Century's Gala HOLIDAY SHOWS KINGSWAY Kings Highway, Vivian Blaine (in Color) and "MY PAL TRIGGER" AVOLON "THE KILLERS" ELM, Avenue M at East 17th St. "CLAUDIA AND DAVID" FARRAGUT, Flatbush Ave. & Farago St. "HOME SWEET HOMICIDE" LINDVIL, Flatbush St. & 18th St. "MONSIEUR BEUCAIRE" TIVOLV, Flatbush St. & 18th St. "MR. ACE" IN HOLLYWOOD

SPECIAL HOLIDAY MORNING SHOWS AT CENTURY'S MAYFAIR Tomorrow at 9:00 A.M.—"ADV. OF TOM SAWYER" and "3 ON A TRAIL" NOSTRAND Tomorrow at 9:00 A.M.—"BUFFALO BILL" Plus Cartoons & Comedy MARINE & PATIO Monday at 9:00 A.M.—15 Color Cartoons—15 Plus on the Stage: KIDVIL VAUDEVILLE SHOW—4 Big Acts—4 Get your tickets now and avoid standing in line

RAY RIDGE and SUNNY PARK "THE KILLERS" and "COCKEYED MIRACLE" "SMOKY" and "SHADOW OF A WOMAN" "HOLIDAY IN MEXICO" and "THE UNKNOWN" "CLEOPATRA AND DAGGER" and "GENIUS AT WORK" "MONSIEUR BEUCAIRE" and "SWAMP FIRE"

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