

'Burlesque,' 'Beggars Holiday,' Adler and Draper Are Here to Entertain

By ARTHUR POLLOCK
This is the holiday season and should be marked by good will toward everything, but perhaps it may be whispered as a footnote that the new entertainments that came to Broadway for Christmas were not in every single respect true, beautiful and good.

Bert Lahr arrived in a revival of the long admired play called "Burlesque," part product of the pen of Arthur Hopkins when he was at his best as a producer. Mr. Hopkins directed the play again after 20 years, quietly, as always has been his custom. And, except for the diodes of Mr. Lahr, it did not seem at its opening night in the Belasco Theater to be quite a meteor. Mr. Lahr has a fine time. In his role as a burlesque comic he can do all the things he likes to do and does so well. The rest was a little stationary.

Bigger, much bigger, and livelier was "Beggars Holiday," newcomer at the Broadway Theater, a lusty business, robust and bursting with energy but rather undecided as to its direction. John LaTouche wrote the book for it, freely making over the original, long known and revered as "Beggars Opera." Mr. LaTouche is a sharp-tongued fellow with a nice command of the English language, so "Beggars Holiday" is a couple of times as literate as a good percentage of the musical comedies we see. He has also stored up quite a quantity of venom. It oozes all over "Beggars Holiday." Duke Ellington wrote the music. Mr. Ellington does not adore sweet melodies. He likes rhythms more complicated.

Consequently, "Beggars Holiday" is not at all like the ordinary trade goods of Broadway musical comedy. It aspires to cut pretty deep. And it does, in its disordered way. But the trouble is that Mr. LaTouche has so much cynicism to unload that nothing else matters with him. He closes his eyes and swings. He has no energy left, or mind, to think up a scheme for his story.

The characters are all underworld folk or close to it. They sing saucy protest about something or other undefined, the Wicked World, perhaps, as Saroyan does. They lead casually sinful lives, cheat and steal and turn each other in, remarking that life is a scrimmage. It makes grim material for a musical drama, but they are terrifically debonair about it, and it would all be right enough if there were a little more order or design in it. But the vitality is frantic and ill-assorted, the whole thing inexpertly composed.

In conjunction with their concerts at City Center, Paul Draper and Larry Adler are giving shows in the afternoons for children. They are very good at it, warm and friendly with the kids, a companionable pair. In addition to their own numbers, perhaps a little lofty for children, they offer the talents of an amiable magician and a jolly fellow with a couple of friends who happen to be dogs. The magician is Richard DuBois, and the kids love him. The man with the dogs is Bob Williams. Mr. Williams' dog act is one of the very best. No one is tempted to feel sorry for the dogs. It is simply an exhibition of the co-operation of man and dog, and they appear to be happy about it.



RALPH MICHAEL and Joyce Heron in "Love Goes to Press," the one new play of the coming week. It is by Martha Gellhorn and Virginia Cowles and opens Wednesday night at the Biltmore Theater.

Martha Gellhorn, Virginia Cowles—They Go Everywhere

In writing "Love Goes to Press" which opens at the Biltmore Theater Wednesday evening, Martha Gellhorn and Virginia Cowles have not wandered far afield for the subject matter of their comedy. "Love Goes to Press" is a play about newspaper people—newspaperwomen and newspapermen—and both are experienced in the game. They have individually, and often together, covered the news in the trouble spots of Italy, Spain, Germany, the Near and the Far East. In their play they touch on only the lighter and more romantic moments of a newspaperer's career, which also is in keeping with the lives they have led.

Martha Gellhorn is the author of five books, "What Mad Pursuit," "The Trouble I've Seen," "A Stricken Field," "The Heart of Another" and "Liana," but she is even more famous for her news articles. Born in St. Louis, she gained her early newspaper experience on an Albany, N. Y., paper. A magazine assignment took her overseas to cover the Spanish Civil War and then on she has covered almost every European and Far East trouble spot. It was during the Spanish difficulties that she met and married Ernest Hemingway from whom she is now separated. It was commonly rumored that she was the girl in the Hemingway play, "The Fifth Column."

Virginia Cowles was born in Brattleboro, Vt., and educated in Boston where she made her society debut. A large part of her childhood was spent in Europe to which she returned when Boston society life palled. Curiously as well as boredom led her into becoming a newspaperwoman abroad. Her only previous experience had been a spicy column for a Boston periodical. The Virginia Cowles method of becoming a newspaperwoman was to pick out the paper she wanted to work for and wire its managing editor that some stories were on the way. The stories were good and she was hired. She had and still has the knack of interviewing unapproach-

MUSIC'S OVERTONES

No Resolutions, Just Good Music, Is Promised for the Next 12 Months

By JOHN BALL JR.
Every indication that we now have points toward the fact that during the coming year of 1947 there will be more good music-making here in the United States than in any other year of our history. There are many reasons for this. Considerably more people are taking an interest in and enjoying music than heretofore. The number of broadcasts of good music has been greatly increased. Large numbers of skilful young musicians have returned to the concert stage and chairs in the great symphony orchestras after having been in service. Foreign artists who have had to wait many years for the opportunity are now coming to this country. Finally, hours of work have been shortened, which means that more people have time both to make music and to listen to the playing or singing of others.

All of us during the past year have faced many difficulties, problems and irritations because of shortages in everything from housing to common courtesy. There are many signs to point to the fact that these problems are beginning to come to an end. There is already much discussion of bringing down many of the high prices which have imposed problems on all of us. Added all together, what this means is that we will face less exacting circumstances during the coming year and have more opportunities for relaxation and recreation. We are not going to suggest any New Year's resolutions mostly because anyone who can make and keep a resolution seldom waits for the New Year to do so. Instead, we propose that you plan to have a greater amount of musical enjoyment during 1947. At the Brooklyn Academy of Music there will be many outstanding and interesting musical events. We have every reason to expect and hope that Maestro Salmaghi will continue his fine presentations of opera at popular prices. At Community Centers, Ys, schools and many other places throughout the borough, much will be accomplished in writing, playing and talking about music. In Manhattan, there will hardly be a day when some event of genuine importance will not be taking place. Specifically, we suggest just one thing: Whenever you plan to attend a concert or consider doing so, go with an open mind, whether the music you are going to listen to is to be unaccompanied Bach or Duke Ellington. There are still a few people who deny themselves a great deal of pleasure because they are a little afraid of some kinds of music and who refuse to listen to anything that might be "high-fallutin'." "High-fallutin'" or "low-fallutin'", practically all music is written to please the listener and bring to him romance, inspiration, comfort or relaxation, according to the composer's intentions. Music is one of the good things that there is going to be plenty of in 1947. For the New Year we wish you, through music, hundreds of added hours of pleasure and enjoyment.

Draper, Adler Offer New Numbers at City Center

During their twelve day engagement last Thursday, and continuing through Jan. 5, the Draper and Adler program has been chosen from their most popular numbers. Bob Williams and His Dogs, and Richard DuBois, magician, complete the bill of entertainment for the children's matinees.

Mr. Draper for the first time dances to the Prelude and Gigue from Bach's Partita in B-flat major, then in a complete change of style performs "In a Dance Hall," to music by Cole Porter. The children's matinees which began last Thursday, and continue through Jan. 5, the Draper and Adler program has been chosen from their most popular numbers. Bob Williams and His Dogs, and Richard DuBois, magician, complete the bill of entertainment for the children's matinees.

Lee Sherman to Direct Dances for New Show

Dwight Deere Wiman and Tom Weatherly have engaged a brand new choreographer for the forthcoming "Fourth Little Show." He is an ex-GI by the name of Lee Sherman, and while well known to the younger generation in the toe and heel trade, he will be making his Broadway bow as a maitre de danse with this production. At present he is assisting Gae Foster at the Romy Theater. Incidentally, the world premiere of "The Fourth Little Show" has been postponed a month. Instead of opening on March 6 in New Haven as originally planned, the new opening will take place on April 6 at the Shubert Theater in Boston.

Sonja Clings To Her Hula

Sonja Henie will present her famous hula in her personal appearance with the Hollywood Ice Revue opening in Madison Square Garden on Friday, Jan. 23. In all other respects Miss Henie's lengthy and varied program will be brand new. The ticket sale for Sonja's 10 annual visit is now in progress at the Garden box office.

Advertisement for RUMBA AND ALL OTHER BALLROOM DANCES, featuring LILLIAN HELLMAN and ALFRED DRAKE in 'BEGGAR'S HOLIDAY'.

Advertisement for PHILHARMONIC SYMPHONY, featuring KABOOLIAN and BERNHARDT.

Advertisement for TOWN HALL, featuring MICHAEL O'HIGGINS and JANO SCHOLTZ.

Advertisement for METROPOLITAN OPERA, featuring FRANCIS REID and Jose Ferrer in 'Cyrano de Bergerac'.

Harpist One of 3 Artists to Play At Museum Today

Lois Bannerman, Harpist, will be one of three artists to appear today at 1:30 p.m. in the sculpture court of the Brooklyn Museum in another of the museum's concert series. Miss Bannerman began the study of the harp at the age of 7 with her mother, Marion Bannerman, who, incidentally, appeared as harp soloist in the Brooklyn Museum concert last year. At 14 the daughter won awards of the MacDowell Club and the New York Madrigal Society, and at 16 she gave a concert in the White House.

The other artists appearing on the program are Fredell Lack, violinist, and Eugene Helmer, pianist. In 1945 Miss Lack, who studied with Louis Persinger, won the Young Artists Award of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences. Stokowski Continues

On the orchestral front in local music circles, Leopold Stokowski enters the second week of his conductorship of the New York Philharmonic-Symphony. This afternoon Dr. Stokowski will present "Harvest Evening," second movement of the "Prairie Legend" suite by Brooklyn-born Elle Sigmelster. A concert Thursday night and Friday afternoon the soloist will be Jacques Thibaud, distinguished French violinist, making his first appearance in this country after an absence of 16 years. He will play the Lalo "Symphonie Espagnole."

Another orchestral feature of the week will be a concert for youth, offered by 50 members of the National Broadcasting Company Symphony Orchestra and presenting Prokofiev's ever-popular "Peter and the Wolf."

Advertisement for 'TOPS THEM ALL' at the Metropolitan, featuring Sonja Henie and Arthur Wirtz.

Advertisement for DRAPER-ADLER at the City Center, featuring Paul Draper and Larry Adler.

Advertisement for AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATRE, featuring MOSS HART'S 'New Play' and 'CHRISTOPHER BLAKE'.

Advertisement for HAPPY BIRTHDAY, featuring HELEN HAYES and 'FRANK FAY'.

Advertisement for 'LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN' and 'LIFE WITH FATHER'.

Advertisement for 'LOVELY ME' and 'THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE'.

Advertisement for 'MARCH ELDRIDGE YEARS AGO' and 'MADAME NOIR'.

He Was Headed for Patagonia When Stage Lightning Struck

If we are to take stage-trained screen actors at their word, the ideal career is one in which their time and talents are equally divided between Broadway and Hollywood. Sidney Blackmer, hewing to that line, is appearing in a stage production this season to balance the score. The star of stage and screen plays a leading role in the Harry Segall comedy, "Wonderful Journey," at the Coronet Theater.

It will always be a question for argument whether Mr. Blackmer is a stage star who was beguiled into the movies or a screen star who was brought into the theater. He made his stage and screen debuts at practically one and the same time. Both were the result of being a good fellow, of trying to lend a helping hand to a comrade in distress.

Born of good Confederacy stock—his maternal grandfather was the first man to sign the secession papers in 1861—he docily followed his brothers to college and studied for the bar. While a member of the University of North Carolina, variety he received a head injury that almost proved fatal. This may have had nothing to do with his sudden decision to leave the legal profession to become a stage actor.

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FRANCES REID and Jose Ferrer in Mr. Ferrer's production of "Cyrano de Bergerac" at the Barrymore Theater. It plays for the 100th time tonight.



HARPIST—Lois Bannerman of Hempstead will be soloist today at 1:30 p.m. at a concert in the sculpture court of the Brooklyn Museum.

by given—holiday operas of "Hansel and Gretel" this afternoon, and "Rigoletto" on New Year's Eve, and a benefit for the Near East College Association on Thursday afternoon. That will be "The Marriage of Figaro."

The Salmaghi Company will present "Carmen" on Saturday night in the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

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