

A LIVE EXPONENT!

New York Showfronts

BY DON DE LEIGHBUD



Hot Lips Page is strictly a live artist from way back. Well, as far back as the days when he tooted the trumpet and giddily "sent" diversion seekers frequenting Harlem's Small's Paradise. And from that merry Page went to big time and has become a sensational box office smash. At the Oxy Club he thrilled the cafe society. So you see the little man with the trumpet who is to embark on a cross-country tour on September 15 with the band—by far a jump, jam 'n' jazz specialist.

NEW YORK — Harlem's world famous Apollo Theatre is being made completely over at the cost of \$150,000. The house that built the bands reopened August 23, and the theatergoers who go in to hear Louis Russell and his orchestra plus other attractions will be introduced to a theatre comparable in appearance inside as well as outside to any of the other swank Broadway playhouses.

Frank Schiffman, managing director of the Apollo said that contrary to rumors the theatre has not closed down in order to give his staff a chance to clean the spittions and sweep up Schiffman, called "Daddy" by thousands of performers, said that it didn't hurt him to think that anyone would have such a viewpoint of his efforts. He proceeded to show me through the place then in process of being decorated. He took me from the attic to the basement and from back to front and even I, hard-boiled as I am, attempted to be in such things, could not help from being impressed.

The Apollo's room, formerly a small ballroom of an affair, has been enlarged to a comfortable lounge with full length mirrors covering the walls, rugs on the floor, a number of telephone booths, and a full size powder room. Schiffman's carpenter, plumbers, and painters and mechanics, loaded the main room in the basement, cleared it out, completely tore out whole sections of the wall to enlarge it into a comfortable colorful smoking room with facilities for washing, shaving, and a number of telephone booths.

The old rehearsal hall, located in the basement of the 123rd Street theatre, where all the great bands have played there have been rearranged and changed and converted into a recreation hall for members of the Apollo Theatre staff in this room underneath the Apollo, where it was once damp and the walls cracked and peeled, such legends as Duke Ellington, Cab Callaway, Lionel Hampton, Count Williams, Chick Webb, Don Redman, "Pops" Foster, Enoch Light, Basie, Charlie Hopkins, Charlie Barnet, George Auld, Buddy Richman, and countless others have gone through their paces.

More than of any other native composer, it is said that George Gershwin captured the musical of American life in his most of compositions. No writer of poetry, prose or song, could be heralded as truly representative unless somewhere in his works he had documented the positive impressions of American life made by the Negro for America's greatness. George Gershwin recognized this axiom, and through his songs and melodies synthesized and dramatic impulses of the Negro are lavishly heard.

In the picture his famous concert piece, "Rhapsody in Blue," is introduced in New York's Astor Hall by Paul Whiteman, just as it was in 1924. As everyone knows, it is a tone poem of the big city, yet its sophisticated urban sounds give way intermittently to the wail of the blues, the plaintive chant which is of unadaptable Negro origin.

To George Gershwin this was no accident. Through workman that he was, he was well aware of the nature and form of his source material. He spent many hours traversing the streets of New York, and lives both in the North and the South in order that his highly sensitive ear could truthfully interpret the melodious strains which emit from every day Negro life. Then the insertion of his music, a flow and a zest uncommon in most classical works.

A further guarantee of authenticity in the Warsaw film is vouchsafed through the fact that Gershwin's music is rendered in such a way that the Negro musical idiom, Anne Brown leads, "Summertime," from Gershwin's folk-opera "Porgy and Bess." Hazel Scott, queen of boogie-woogie, plays a medley of Gershwin music at the piano. And, as previously mentioned, Paul Whiteman and his band figures throughout the production. One need only refer to Whiteman's famous rendition of "Rhapsody in Blue" featuring Mildred Bailey to know from whom came much of the inspiration for his style.

All in all, the picture "Rhapsody in Blue" says with music what has often been said through other mediums. That is—this country of ours is one of many heritages, heartaches, and hopes, none of which are of the same color in race—but all having one thing in common. They are American.

Sensational Brother and Sister Combination Giving St. Louis Nitery High Class Entertainment



Ella Johnson and her brother Buddy are really in the groove at the Plantation Club in St. Louis, Missouri, where the musical aggregation is headed by Buddy with sister Ella on the vocals. A great combination, diversion seekers frequenting the spot rate the sister-brother team one of the nation's best. The gal who almost stole "The Corn is Green," Decca Records, exclusively, Ella and Buddy are set for a series of engagements extraordinary after their Missouri popularity of this great orchestra, booked for an appearance in Camden, N. J.'s Convention Hall for Labor Day—the advance sale of tickets indicates that a police line will have to be called out to keep the lobby-dancers in check. (Editorial note: Had that's the stuff you really got to see.)

Buddy And Band Lauded By Broadway Columnist

Buddy Johnson, creator of the popular lullaby, "Baby Don't You Cry" and other Decca hits is currently appearing in a limited tour under the exclusive management of the Gale Agency, Inc.

CHARMING DAMSELS VOTED THE BEST 3

NEW YORK (IPS) — Lovely Edna Mae Harris, glamorous Jeanne Brown and exotic Bettye Mayes — a trio of good-looking — are now the top Tropical Tan Trio, according to a letter received by Laurie Macfie, associate editor of Independent Press Service.

STAGE FOR ACTION GROUP Doing A Remarkable Job

NEW YORK (IPS) — Since for Action announces that with its performance on Tuesday next before the Midtown Community Center the play "The Man With the Three-Cornered Hat" by Peter Martin, will reach its 50th performance. This play has been part of Stage for Action's repertoire for the past six months and is concerned with the problem of Reconstruction, Post War Employment and International Unity. As with all Stage for Action plays, the material contained within is continually being revised as to be up-to-the-minute topicality. During its run, more than 20,000 people in the five boroughs of Park, Manhattan, have been shown in Park Camp, USO Center, I.U.M.S.W.A. in Camden, N. J., United Steelworkers of America, in a long, continuous "TA" meetings and many community rallies.

20th Century Gabriel Searches For Gabe The Second

NEW YORK (IPS) — Has anyone seen a hawk? Honest, wanted (or buy) is one hawk (tame) according to the boys in Erskine (The Hawk) Hawkins' band. The boys would very much like to hear from a hawk owner. Hawk is a bird and the pet shop, but it was strictly "nothing doing." Reason for the frantic high-and-low hunt for the long tailed bird of prey is the big boss' birthday and also the first Broadway appearance of the Hawk's band at the Strand Theatre in New York City. On such a momentous double occasion, the boys thought something should be done in the way of a gift — and since the bird has no mascot — to be searched for a hawk.

Dots And Dashes

HOLLYWOOD, Cal.—When Hazel Scott came to Hollywood to work in the picture "Rhapsody in Blue," Warner Bros. inquired if she could sing Gershwin's hit song, "My Blue Heaven" in both French and English. She replied that she could, and in Hebrew too if they wished. They later learned she speaks 12 languages, and sings in several more. Dotted here in her current film, "The Corn is Green," Bette Davis gets a double dose in the picture she has just completed "A Picture of Life." Therein, she plays twin sisters who love the same man, Glenn Ford. The Illinois Jaquet has really taken over Central Avenue. Of a Saturday night, try and get into the Club Douvrat where he's holding forth. Barbara Stanwyck who is now being seen in "Christmas in Connecticut," Alexis Smith whose next is "Rhapsody in Blue," and Lauren Bacall, all are superstitious about removing their wedding bands in pictures. Consequently make-up artists never the rings so they do not show. Ed James, a local ad has tied up KP for his radio show tagged, "The Copper Caravan" which will pipe into the ether music from Clubs, Alabama, Last Word, Rhythmous, Cafe Society, and the Rhythm Club. Ed says it'll be the longest air jump show on the Coast. Anybody wondering when they'll get a chance to view Joan Loring—the gal who almost stole "The Corn is Green," can rest easy. She'll be seen in "Three Strangers," in the company of such able character actors as Peter Lorre and Sydney Greenstreet. Dottie Seaman (the ex-showgirl) is no longer hostess at the Last Word Cafe. Regarding kissing scenes, James Wong Howe, the famous Chinese cameraman says that a too fully dress takes away from the audience's appreciation of that delectable art. Jimmy should know. He's now behind the lens on Warner's "Confidential Agent" starring Chas. Boyer and Lauren "The Look" Bacall. Rex Ingram, recently reported to have purchased a play, "The Newark Playboys" (no pun intended)—Rex operates in New York and Hollywood) states he may develop Broadway production of the play. Metro producer, is arranging to get into Times Square to showcase Lena Horne. Faye Elliott, wife of Bria, Gen. Elliott Roosevelt, is due in town to costar in the Warner Bros. film, "Dancing with Tears." She'll share honors with Zachary Scott. Mervyn McCann, the New York showgirl, followed on the Coast, has knocked out two... (text continues with names and details of Broadway shows)

Ann Brown Desires To Sing For All - Mr. Bilbo!

NEW YORK (IPS) — Anne Brown the beautiful and talented concert star has applied in a series of American Negro Music Festivals in Chicago, St. Louis and Detroit. In the latter city she was the victim of what many term Hollywood's "amer campaign" on race stars is booked old for a series of concerts in the "United States and Canada up and through the winter season of 1945. Miss Brown has informed her manager Albert Morini in New York that she is especially anxious to appear at colleges and institutions in various sections of the country. In spite of the fact that she has been denied that privilege when Jim Crow laws are in existence. Community groups interested in presenting one of the stars of "Portents" and "The Negro Opera" for a worthy cause would do well to contact Mr. Morini at his office, 119 West 57th Street, New York, N. Y.

Leads Great Combination of Titled "Jump" Musicians

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Hawkins Opens Stage Door Canteen

NEW YORK (IPS) — Erskine Hawkins and his band, currently packing them in at the Strand Theatre, literally and musically gave out with "swing" opening the gates of the new, temporary location of the Stage Door Canteen, in the Hotel Diplomat on W. 43rd St. When the first GIs and their besties marched thru the portals of the boys' new entertainment haven, Hawk and his crew played the maestro's latest jive specialty, "Swimming the State Door," composed in honor of the occasion.

"Next Door" By TED SHEARER



TAN TOPICS By CHARLES ALLEN



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