

Merely Pleasant Play Stands Little Chance

By JACK O'BRIAN
NEW YORK, April 5.—(AP)—“The Whole World Over,” an amiable little collection of foot-light nonsense which opened a few days ago at the Biltmore theater, has very little chance, to my way of thinking, of becoming a Broadway success.

It is not all dull, is generally amusing, and includes some pleasant characters who say and do funny things. Coming from Hollywood, it probably would have been welcomed as some new and furiously successful film comedy formula.

Sad to recount, however, merely mild little theatrical pleasures don't seem to go on Broadway. If a play is simply a bit of drag along a few weeks, swiftly exhausting its clientele, before heading disconsolately for Cain's warehouse. On Broadway nice little things aren't accepted with open arms, or even open palms. The greatest, funniest, loudest, moodiest, loveliest, most tuneful, brashest, even on occasion, the dirtiest, have the inside track.

Therefore, while I view “The Whole World Over” as a nice little addition to the season's pleasures, the chances are it will be gone in a month or two after running up a deficit for producers and backers encouraged by moderate praise from critics.

This mildly merry little diversion is a Konstantine Simonov comedy adapted from the Russian by Thelma Schnee. Unlike a good many Russian plays, it contains no heavy propaganda preachments nor international Soviet subtleties but is simply a postwar comedy which could have been written about Americans as well as the Russian colonel and the Moscow engineering student with which it is concerned.

The ingredients are familiar: There's a Moscow housing shortage similar to our own; two war-shattered romances in which one half of each has died in battle, and the happy ending for both by the simple and traditional device of “meets-towards”; the comedy father, a cultured man who blusters amusingly while creating obstacles for the unwanted future son-in-law and helping his favorite; a low comedy apartment superintendent, and sundry diverse characters chosen for casting variety.

This is no complaint, for successful American comedies have been tossed together from similar

obvious components. What the plot lacks in bright originality it makes up in familiarly droll family antics.

Joseph Buloff, who romped as the comic lead for three years in “Oklahoma,” dons a beard and spectacles to play the father, in process of which he takes down whatever acting honors the production contains. UTA Hagen, the admirable desdemona of “Thello” several seasons back, is the girl, and Stephen Bekassy is the dour, disillusioned colonel who finally discovers he's in love with the lady engineer. Walter Fried and Paul F. Moss produced. Harold Clurman directed.

Newspaper Publisher Announces Candidacy

RALEIGH, April 5.—(AP)—Rep. Dan Tompkins of Jackson county as a Sylva newspaper publisher, today announced he would be a candidate for Lieutenant-Governor in the 1948 Democratic primary.

Tompkins is the first candidate to declare for the post. He has been an active leader of dry forces in the current session of the General Assembly.

Cabby Finds Not All Fares Honest

Cabbies have to be on their guard these days when they're hauling strangers around in their hacks.

At least that's the way W. T. Futch, local hackett, feels about it after he was allegedly hit over the head Saturday morning by one of his customers.

He told police he picked up a man at the bus station, and upon request, took him to 204 S. Sixth street. On the way the cabbie and the passenger chatted cordially.

But when they got to the destination, the friendly “customer” reportedly whacked Futch on the back of the head with a bottle and took off down the street in a gallop.

The only compensation Futch got out of the trip was a two inch cut and a lump on his head, for which he was treated and released from the James Walker Memorial hospital.

They'll Do It Every Time



Books And The Arts

By W. G. ROGERS
Associated Press Art Reporter

NEW YORK, April 5.—(AP)—A revival and a premiere have marked the spring season of the Original Ballet Russe at the Metropolitan opera house.

The first was “pictures at an exhibition,” choreography by Nijinska and music by Moussorgsky, taken over from ballet international, and the second a pas de trois, diversion with choreography by Jerome Robbins and music from Berlioz's “Damnation of Faust.”

The pas de trois is in two parts: minuet-presto and waltz. The waltz will do, but the minuet-presto section is one of the wittiest peices on the ballet stage today. Intended to bring Alicia Markova, Anton Dolin and Andre Eglesvsky together in a single number, it failed in that purpose for Rosella Hightower substituted for the indisposed Markova.

Robbins' idea to mock classic choreography, is not new, but it was developed freshly and much of the credit for its success should go to the three expert dancers, who drove the Metropolitan audience to loud laughter. Dolin, a born wit, was bound to hit it off just right, but Eglesvsky, whose traditional repertoire makes him seem like a regular poker-face sobersides, drew the noisiest guffaws.

If you have heard a great deal of Brahms this season, it is in recognition of the 50th anniversary of his death, on April 3, 1897, in Vienna. Born in Hamburg in 1833, son of a double-bass player, he chose for his instrument the piano, and it was on the concert stage that he won the attention and praise of Schumann and violinist Joachim.

A perfecter more than an innovator, he secured a publisher for his compositions by the time he was 20, received the warmest welcome in Vienna, where he became director of the Singakademie in 1863, and made the music-loving capital his home from 1872 on.

“The mother of us all,” a new opera by Virgil Thomson, music critic of the New York Herald Tribune, and the late Gertrude Stein, will feature Columbia University's third annual festival of contemporary American music, May 12 to 15. Public performances of the opera will be May 7 to 10, invitation performances May 12 to 15. The work was commissioned by the Alice M. Ditson fund, which also is used to finance the festival.

BOOKS

A book about highbrow music written so that lowbrows can actually understand it is the unusual achievement to be credited to John Hallstrom; and he performed the feat in spite of, or because of, the fact that he has studied music only two months and cannot read a score.

Hallstrom, lanky and breezy, is general merchandise manager of RCA Victor. It has been part of his job to persuade stores to take on a line of records, and to that end he developed a line of his own. Popular music was popular anyway, but red seals needed redhot sales talks; and after his method had proved successful, he decided, by heck, to get it all down in a book.

In Philadelphia, where he was born and now lives, he goes to the orchestra every week to the opera occasionally. His sister has a musical education, his father plays a lot on the piano, his mother plays one piece. Somebody got the idea, when he was young, that he could sing, and so he went over to Peabody institute, a very aloof and difficult place, barged in and said he wanted lessons. They put some sheet music on the piano and offered him a tryout. He couldn't read it, and asked them to play it first. He made the grade, but he didn't stick it out.

His children, eight and four years old, like to listen to good music, he says, but he never tells them, “now you sit down there and listen.” They may take it or leave it, and he finds they take it.

His book, which will be published April 10, is called “Relax and Listen.” Asked what he wants to do when he retires, he says “relax and listen.”

June book of the month will be John Gunther's “Inside U. S. A.” Harper is publisher of the 500,000-word, 1,000-page volume.

ART

Art's Equity association, headed by Yasuo Kuniyoshi and having a membership of more than 150 well known American painters and sculptors, has just been organized with headquarters in New York and regional centers across the country.

The association's purposes are to encourage private and institutional patronage of the arts,

Congresswoman To Be Peace College Speaker

RALEIGH, N. C., April 5.—(AP)—Rep. Helen Gahagan Douglas (D-Cal.) will be the commencement speaker at Peace college celebrates its 75th anniversary.

President William C. Pressly said he had received an acceptance from Mrs. Douglas. She will fly here from a speaking engagement in the west the previous day.

26 In Lynching Case To Be Tried Together

GREENVILLE, S. C., April 5.—(AP)—The thirty-one Greenville men indicted for murder in connection with the lynching of Willie Earle, 24, Greenville Negro, will be tried together during the May 5 general sessions term here.

Solicitor Robert T. Ashmore said, Judge J. Robert Martin of Greenville will preside.

Earle was taken from the Pickens county jail by a group of armed, unmasked men last Feb. 17, and found dead in Greenville county several hours later. He was being held in connection with a fatal attack on T. W. Brown, 48, a Greenville taxi driver. All but four of the indicted men are taxi drivers.

Sam Watt, solicitor of the Spartanburg district, has been assigned to assist Ashmore in the prosecution.

The poison in poison ivy is an oily resin.

Yugoslav Sculptor Ivan Mestrovic Will Have One-Man Show in Metropolitan Museum

The John Levy galleries are showing “25 Americans in retrospect,” starting with Homer and winding up with Luks.

Paintings by Soutine Utrillo, Picasso, Fernand, Gris, Laurencin and other moderns, from a Bryn Mamm estate and New York collections, will be sold at auction in the Parke-Bernet galleries next week.

Yugoslav Sculptor Ivan Mestrovic will have a one-man show in the Metropolitan museum of art from April 11 through May, his first American showing in 20 years; it will be sponsored by the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

TRUCK DRIVER BREAKS LAWS

At That, He Says, The Police Would Not Arrest Me; Had Gun At Back

BALTIMORE, April 5.—(AP)—Cab Driver Gerald E. Caldwell told police today he broke every traffic regulation he could think of in a five-mile cross-town trip but couldn't get arrested. His passenger had a gun in his back.

“This is a pistol, I've had a rough time tonight, and now I'm going to give you a rough time.”

He gave a destination and Caldwell set out on his carefully planned orgy of speeding and stop-light running, expecting any moment the gunman would relieve him of his receipts.

At the end of the trip, Caldwell said the passenger got out and told him: “Here's \$5.25. That's all I've got, and that's all you're going to get.”

The meter reading was \$1.50.

Fort Bragg Soldier Exonerated By Jury

WATERTOWN, N. Y., April 5.—(AP)—Pvt. Jesse V. Hill of Fort Bragg, has been exonerated by a Jefferson county jury in the death of Master Sergeant Frederick E. Miner of Adams, who died last May 22 following a fist fight.

A jury of five men and seven women returned a verdict of innocent last night in Hill's second trial on a charge of first degree manslaughter. The first trial, last November, ended in jury disagreement.

MOUNT HOPE HOST CHURCH publicity chairman, has announced

NEWTON, April 5.—(AP)—Mount Hope church near Greensboro will be host to the spring meeting of the Southern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed church, April 15-17, the Rev. A. Wilson Cheek, publicity chairman, has announced.

Annual U. S. coal production tonnage is normally 20 times that of wheat and seven times that of corn.

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On Sizzling Charcoal Broiled STEAKS

To The Music Of NICK PONOS And His Orchestra

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Rex Beach's thrill-filled saga of flaming guns and reckless women!

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MICHIGAN KID

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Crab Meat O'Brien au Gratin
Fried Jumbo Shrimp With Tartar Sauce
Shrimp Newberg en Casserole
Fried Deep Sea Scallops With Tartar Sauce
New Orleans Oyster Loaf
Fried Filet of Flounder
Shrimp Creole With Steamed Rice
Fried Frog Legs With Tartar Sauce
Shrimp Jumbola
Broiled Shad
Shad Roe and Bacon

Clam Fritters Cole Slaw French Fried Potatoes
Coffee Tea Milk

A La Carte
Lobster Newberg en Casserole 2.00
Broiled Sirloin Steak, Butter Sauce 1.75
Porterhouse Steak 2.00
Broiled T-Bone Steak 1.50
Club Steak 1.50
Broiled Maine Lobster, Drawn Butter 2.00
Fried Chicken in Basket 1.50
Fried Ham Steak 1.50
Assorted Seafood Platter 2.00
Fried Fish, Oysters, Shrimp, Scallops, Deviled Crab Cakes, Frog Legs

AN orders served with celery and olives
French Fried Potatoes 1.50
Oyster Roast 1.50 Chicken-in-a-Box 1.50
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