



**His Majesty's**

With the new musical comedy in three acts entitled "A Southern Maid," the African Theatres Ltd. have sure got a winner—if I may be permitted to follow the phrasing of our American cousins. The piece is somewhat different from the average run of musical comedies in so far as there is a semblance of a plot, while at times the music borders upon grand opera. For this fact Harold Fraser Simpson and Ivan Novello are to be thanked and their efforts have been enhanced by an intelligible book by Dion Calthrop and Harry Graham and by charming lyrics from the pens of Adrian Ross and Douglas Furber. The cast is a big one, comprising more than a dozen and a half of principals and although some of them have not much to do, others, as for instance Coningsby Brierly and Daisy Bindley hardly leave the stage. Norman Greene makes a fine and stately Francesco del Fuego, while the Sir Willoughby Rawdon of Fred Maguire is quite convincing. The first night Dorothy O'Shann had a mental breakdown and, at a few minutes notice, Baby Ricardo took her part as Chiquita, playing with a brightness and vivacity that was much appreciated by the audience who were loud in their applause. Madge Carlin as Juanita was also good, while Beryl Arlene looked sweet and girlish as Lady Julia Chichester, though one wonders why

**STANDARD**

Direction ... African Theatres, Ltd.

**MR. LEONARD RAYNE**

presents

**THE MASQUERADERS**

**NIGHTLY at 8.15**

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there is no song to this role. But it is to Daisy Bindley as Dolores that the success of the piece is mainly due. Bright and pleasing as a musical comedy artiste should be, she is possessed of a really good voice and there are moments when she reaches dramatic heights that are distinctly impressive. From the time when she comes on the stage, until the final drop of the curtain, Miss Bindley shows a keen appreciation of the possibilities of her part and she richly deserved the floral tributes that were presented to her at the close of the performance. The staging is beautifully done, the scene at the orange grove in act 3 being particularly artistic. The dressing is appropriate while the dances, arranged by Miss Elsie Kay, enhance the interest attaching to the production upon which Mr. F. Maxwell Stewart is to be heartily congratulated.

L.L.G.

**The Standard,**

In presenting the "Masqueraders" at the Standard Theatre on Monday last, Mr. Leonard Rayne has every reason to be fully satisfied with his venture, for, the ladies and gentlemen who comprise this lively concert party exceeded all expectations. All of them are local celebrities and the programme they provided would be hard to beat. That the various items were thoroughly enjoyed was seen by the constant demand for encores. The concerted items such as "A Democratic Quartette", "Wun Lung Fu", etc., were exceedingly well done and contained many topical allusions. It is difficult to single out any special member, for all are deserving of praise. Miss Bertie Solomon with her charming ways, and delightful singing was always a pleasure to listen to and proved herself to be a dainty dancer, whilst Miss Barbara Munro was as vivacious as ever. The other ladies of the company Miss Annie Anderson and Miss Florence Ellis both sang well. Of the male members of the company Mr. Vivian Clarence, as the

local poet was distinctly original as well as amusing and he was well supported by Messrs. William Matthews, Robert Bothwell and Stanley Anderson. The show is one well worthy of a visit and should prove to be a great attraction.

**The Empire.**

The new turns at the Empire this week are all excellent ones. The first was Christine Roy, a comedienne with many accomplishments and certainly a versatile artiste. As a pianiste she is exceptionally brilliant and has gained her A. R. C. M. and L. R. A. M., whilst as a vocaliste she is undoubtedly one of the best heard for a long time. Her repertoire is an extensive one ranging from opera to ragtime. Her reception more than proved that she will be a great favourite with South African audiences. As was only to be expected Raynor and Roy score again with their comedy a la carte, whilst for a thrilling turn, the D'Ormondes would be hard to beat. They are very clever trick cyclists and give a brilliant exhibition. Of the turns remaining over from the previous week Jack Straw and his wee partner again cause considerable amusement in their nautical scene, Zellini, the trick juggler gives of his best in an inimitable a manner, whilst Rex Romaine and Stella Esdaile have proved so popular that they are retained in the programme for a fourth week. Miller and Canning in their "Playing the Dickens" still evoke loud applause for their impersonations as well as gymnastics. Lastly, but not least comes Johnnie Horner, a comedian who sings a number of topical songs. Added to all these are the ever popular African Mirror and Gazette giving a series of incidents of happenings in all parts of the world. Patrons of this popular place of amusement have thus small room for complaint.

**The Durban Orchestra.**

The 4th Popular Symphony Concert under Mr. Lyell Tayler's conductorship took place on Monday night in the Town Hall, and it is to be deeply regretted that such a select programme of good music was unable to draw a larger audience. The items were all beautifully rendered and it was hard to say which was best performed. The members of the orchestra gave of their best. The first item of the programme was the overture "William Tell" which sounded rather too noisy owing to the emptiness of the vast hall, followed by Fraeume (Dreams) the wonderful composition of R. Wagner's, Liszt's 2nd Hungarian Rhapsody, and the first three Slavonic Dances of Dvorak's. Greig was represented by his Suite "Sigurd Jorsalfar,"

**EMPIRE**

(African Theatres.)

**TO-NIGHT at 8.15.**

**8 STAR ACTS 8**

**Miller & Canning  
Jack Straw  
Zellini**

**Johnnie Horner  
Romaine & Esdaile**

**Raynor & Roy  
Christine Roy**

**The D'Ormondes**

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and R. Strauss by his well known Symphonic Poem "Death and Transfiguration." Saint Saens figured on the programme with a wonderful piece of music, his Symphonic Poem "Phaeton" (the son of the Sun God Phoebus) which seemed to be woven out of sunbeams and sunshine. A rather unknown Prelude "Le Dernier Sommeil de la Vierge" (the last sleep of the Virgin) by Massenet and the "Ride of the Valkyries" by Wagner concluded the rather lengthy programme. The soloist of the evening was Miss Lucy France who rendered the Aria "Robert, Toi Que J'Aime" from Meyerbeer's grand opera "Robert le Diable" and a very pretty song "Morning" by Oley Speaks with a clear full mezzo soprano voice. The first few bars showed a little nervousness with the singer, but it lost itself in the course of the rendering. The piano accompaniment might have been a little less noisy, which would have been of greater advantage to the artiste as well as to the audience. It seems too easily forgotten that the Town Hall, when not fully seated, does not give such good effect to piano accompaniment unless it is done in a soft and unpretentious manner. Though small in numbers the audience was most appreciative.

### The Orpheum.

There is not a dull moment during the whole of the evening's entertainment at the Orpheum this week where Gus Edwards, "School-days" has been the attraction. The leading part is played by Wesley Barry and the whole production is full of laughable incidents. The strictest attention has been paid to every detail and the young actors who took part in the piece all proved to be able to respond to the demands made upon them. In view of the length of this film there is only time for one vaudeville item and this is presented by Madge Bilton and Max who, in a lively and accomplished manner prove themselves, to be "Wranglers" of note.

### The Bijou.

The African Mirror and the Gaumont Graphic shown at the Bijou this week contained numerous interesting incidents, whilst the principal film during the earlier part of the week was a screen version of a stage play entitled "Mamma's Affair". The film adheres strongly to the original and the result is a really charming portrayal of a delightful play. There is just the right amount of comedy, plus a good plot and, acted by capable artistes such as Effie Shannon and George Le Guere, the picture leaves no room for any complaint for the production is everything that one could desire.

## MATTERS COMMUNAL.

### Budding Orators.

The Debating Section of the Johannesburg Jewish Guild is making rapid progress since its revival. Some few months ago this particular section looked like dying but, a number of energetic young men are responsible for its now flourishing state. The debates are well attended and are usually full of excitement. This was proved to be so in a recent discussion on faith healing. Amongst those who are active in making these debates so successful are Messrs. I. Sandler, L. H. Shoul, B. Levitas, H. W. Wedeclefsky and etc.

### How Are They To Live?

Another army of lawyers and doctors, to say nothing of mere B.A.'s, has again been sent out into the world. How they are to make a living for the next few years is a problem that is puzzling most of them. The professions are much over crowded and college graduates, who have to make their own way without the support of rich fathers or inherited wealth, or a rich marriage are having an increasingly hard time of it. The years spent at college, to say nothing of the additional years of training for a profession required, would be sufficient to make a man a high class mechanic or business man. In either line a young man has half a dozen more chances for success, and by success is meant not only the earning of a living, but the accumulation of a fortune, than he has in a profession.

### The Missionaries.

Our Christian brethren spend many millions annually in missionary work—most of it without results—for the conversion of Jews, Mohammedans, pagans and heathens. We Jews also have a missionary work to perform. To care for our co-religionists wherever and wherever they may be, to rescue them from vice, ignorance and oppression, to help them to rise in the moral, economic and social scale; this should be our missionary work, and if it were well done it would be enough.

### A Wrong Objection.

The Birmingham Hebrew Congregation is looked upon as one of the leading congregations in the British Empire and, certainly it knows how to manage its affairs in an ideal a manner. For a number of years, four at the very least it has been seeking a First Reader. The number of applicants for the position, a fairly remunerative one, must have

easily reached three figures but none of them proved satisfactory. Indeed, my friend the Rev. Dr. Cohen, the minister of the Birmingham community informed me not so long ago that they were still scouring Europe but with no success. At long last, however, there is a probability of the vacant position being filled but, the would be successful candidate has in the eyes of some of the ultra patriots committed a hideous offence he happens to be a German Jew. That is why a small number of members are objecting to his appointment. In the first place I am wondering whether my *landsleit* have forgotten *Kol Yisroel Avirim* and secondly, I have a suspicion that these "William The Conqueror Jews" are the very same people who threatened we young men of the community for daring to object to having a pseudo conscientious objector appointed to the post. When a supposed successful candidate was chosen in 1920, we young men had the audacity to object to the appointment because, we refused to have an ex commercial traveller who, when refused exemption on conscientious grounds turned *chazan* and then when still refused fled to America and there by posing as a *chazan* managed to escape his duties. At least the man whom it is now proposed to appoint, did do his duty.

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