

The Genius of Yehudi Menuhin

Flawless Violin Playing

FOR the first time in the history of the Colosseum Theatre in Johannesburg, the stage of the auditorium was filled on Sunday evening with patrons, unable to secure seats in a crowded house.

The occasion was the first appearance in South Africa of Yehudi Menuhin, the acknowledged genius of the violin. There was a spirit of expectation and a reverence prevalent. The great reputation of the young master of the violin had come before him and all realised that the evening was a musical event of importance.

It was not long before the deeply interested audience felt that they were listening to one of the wonders of the age. Here was a strip of a boy—just turned nineteen—who was able to conquer with the greatest facility all the intricacies of musical composition.

Perfection in violin-playing was achieved with a rare grace and an exquisite beauty of tone. The audience sat back and marvelled at the dexterity of hands which controlled violin pieces with an ease which has never hitherto been known. This quality is undoubtedly the marvel of Yehudi Menuhin's playing.

At the first concert the most interesting item on the programme was the Concerto in E minor by Mendelssohn. This was played in a manner which moved the audience to a burst of enthusiasm and admiration.

On Wednesday evening at the City Hall, the young master-violinist gave an exquisite rendering of Mozart's Concerto No. 3, in G Major, and his playing of the Spanish Symphony by Lalo will long be remembered.

The third concert is due to be held in the City Hall on Friday, the 11th of October and his final recital will take place at the Colosseum Theatre on Sunday the 13th inst. This last recital is of particular interest to music lovers as Menuhin is then to give his famous interpretation of the Sonata in A Major by Cesar Franck.



Mr. Moshe Menuhin and his famous son, Yehudi

A photograph taken on their arrival in Johannesburg

["Rand Daily Mail" photo.]

There can be no doubt of the superb technique of Yehudi Menuhin. His ability to play, with an effortless ease, compositions upon which noted musicians have devoted a lifetime to perfect, is what leaves his listeners spellbound. He is undoubtedly a genius of sound, for his ear can detect the slightest variation of pitch. All this results in flawless tone.

It is interesting, too, to observe that in his playing the young violinist never exaggerates. He follows the script of the composer to the letter and does not protrude his own personality, except as a virtuoso in interpretation. His performance is a supreme lesson to violinists.

Standing easily on the platform and playing in quiet manner, Yehudi Menuhin gives the impression that he is lost to all the world except in his music. The latter flows beautifully and harmoniously in a manner which makes listening to him a memorable and unforgettable experience.

A word of praise must be given for the remarkable piano-accompanying of M. Marcel Gazelle, whose fine work is carried out in a self-effacing manner.

D.

LAUREL AND HARDY AT THE METRO.

A roaringly funny comedy entitled "Bonnie Scotland," is the attraction at the Metro this week. Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy accidentally manage to enlist in a Scottish regiment and many funny situations arise. A Micky Mouse colour cartoon is included in an excellent supporting programme. Patrons of the Metro will be interested to learn that Greta Garbo, Frederic March and Freddie Bartholomew are soon to be seen in Tolstoy's great story "Anna Karenina."

Yiddish Plays in Johannesburg

Jewish playgoers will be pleased to learn that, in response to numerous requests, it has been arranged for the talented and popular Yiddish actress, Sarah Sylvia, together with a good supporting company, to present a selection of entirely new plays for a season at His Majesty's Theatre, commencing Wednesday, October 16th.

The great success achieved by Miss Sylvia during her first season a couple of months ago will be recalled with pleasure, and African Consolidated Theatres, Ltd., in responding to the many requests for a return season, feel that their confidence and enthusiasm, will be rewarded by Jewish theatregoers.

During Miss Sylvia's forthcoming season, three plays, entirely new to local audiences, will be staged. The first is "The Imported Wife," a grand comedy with songs. This play, which has met with great success on the Jewish stage overseas, will be presented from Wednesday, October 16th, to Saturday, October 19th, inclusive, with a matinee on the Wednesday afternoon.

For the benefit of Reef theatregoers, Miss Sylvia and her company are paying a special visit to Benoni and will appear at the Criterion Theatre on Friday, October 11th, when the play "The Imported Wife" will be presented.

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