



## Stage Song & Show.

### THE OPERA HOUSE.

"Interference" had its *premiere* at the Opera House on Monday night, and an enthusiastic audience showed its appreciation of the play in an unmistakable manner. All the good things said about "Interference" have been fully justified, and from the moment the curtain rose until it dropped for the last time, interest was fully maintained. It was presented in a masterly manner by Mr. Bouchier and a strong and talented company, each part, major and minor, being interpreted with wonderful realism and faithfulness. There was never a dull moment. Highly dramatic incidents, tense and emotional situations followed each other with bewildering rapidity as the theme developed. It was only towards the close of the play that there was relief from the electrically charged atmosphere, and that was when Dr. Pollack, a red faced and breezy police surgeon enters upon the scene. "Interference" is a gripping story, full of thrills, and the rapt attention of a spellbound audience was eloquent proof of the fine quality of the acting. Cape Town audiences are particularly critical. They know and understand good plays and good acting, so that, judging by Monday's reception a success is assured the play in South Africa. That Mr. Bouchier was satisfied with the manner in which the *premiere* was received was evident from a graceful little speech which he made at the close of the performance in response to repeated calls. With characteristic gestures he thanked the audience for their appreciation of his and his colleagues' efforts, and said he would cable to Sir Gerald Du Maurier to tell him of the way in which Cape Town had received the play, which he was producing in London with such success. He paid a generous tribute to the members of the cast as well as to the theatre staff for their assistance.

As Dr. John Marley, a physician who had reached the pinnacle of fame by the discovery of a new and successful serum, Mr. Bouchier has a part that allows him full scope for his brilliant artistry. Easy and debonair, he holds the audience with his graceful acting and his wonderful personality. No matter whether in the consulting room, as the loving husband or as the strong and resourceful man, his delineation is perfect.

Irritated by the "interference" of newspaper reporters who seek him out in consequence of his discovery, he subsequently meets a terrible situation when he discovers that, through a War Office blunder, Mrs. Marley's first husband, a "bad man," was not killed in France. Indeed, Phillip Voaze turns up in the doctor's consulting room where, after being told that he has not long to live, finds that his wife, Faith, has married the doctor. There are more thrilling complications owing to the blackmailing of Mrs. Marley, by a former mistress of Voaze. She has in her possession several letters, supposedly compromising, which Mrs. Marley is anxious to obtain. Voaze, to his credit, undertakes to get possession of the letters, and visits the flat of Deborah Kane for this purpose.

Here, after a violent love scene, a quarrel and a reconciliation, he induces his mistress to take a glass of brandy in which he has previously dropped prussic acid. It is now that the drama develops. Earlier in the evening Mrs. Marley had visited her blackmailer for the purpose of giving her a cheque for the letters. After a painful scene she departs leaving her handbag. Voaze then turns up, secures the letters, and commits the murder. Dr. Marley subsequently visiting the flat finds the dead body of Miss Kane, and under the impression that his wife has committed the deed proceeds to destroy all visible evidence of the murder. The detective who is sent for discovers that it is not suicide as at first glance it appeared, and he suspects both the Doctor and Mrs. Marley. The situation, however, is cleared Voaze making a confession. Explanations between the doctor and his wife follow and a considerate detective promises to leave them out of the case.

The acting of Alick Chumley as Phillip Voaze was outstanding and his scene with Miss Francis Dillon, who successfully portrayed the heavy part of Deborah Kane, was perhaps the finest ever seen in any drama staged in this country.

Miss Cherry Hardy, as Faith, the much harassed wife of Dr. Marley, played her part with grace and ability, whilst mention must be made of Mr. Beckett Bould (Detective Inspector Haines), Helen Rous (Florence Rooke, the doctor's sister), Noelle Sonning (Barbara, the doctor's niece), Edward Woodings (Douglas Helder of the United Press Bureau), all of whom rendered their roles with judgment and effect.

J.C.

### THE TIVOLI.

There are three first-class acts on the Bio-Vaudeville programme which is being presented at the Tivoli this week and together with the screen features make up an entertainment of quality. Heading the vaudeville section are Pierce and Roslyn. Tivoli-ites will remember and appreciate this splendid pair, whose singing and instrumental music is so enjoyable. The St. Denis Sisters, remaining over from the last bill, continue to delight patrons with their dancing and catchy vocal numbers, whilst John Alex Bros. are very clever acrobats, who with smiles and song charm an appreciative audience. The principal film is one that appeals in view of the great interest taken by Cape Town people in racing by reason of Mr. Kilpatrick's fortune in the Derby. "The Dixie Handicap," is an exciting race film with the usual love theme. A Metro-Goldwyn picture, well-known artists like Claire Windsor, Frank Keenan and Lloyd Hughes, take the principal parts.

### THE ALHAMBRA.

The screen version of Mrs. Henry Wood's famous "East Lynne" will be shown at the Alhambra on Monday, with Alma Rubens, Edmund Lowe and Lou Tellegen in the principal parts. "East Lynne" is a well read novel and never fails to attract large audiences whenever produced on the legitimate stage. The picture will appeal to those who like emotional incidents, and a good cry is assured those "of the soft heart and the touchy feelings." With such prominent film artists the presentation is bound to be up to expectations.

### THE GRAND THEATRE.

Paris is the locale of Paul Stein's second production for Warner Bros., "Don't Tell the Wife," starring Irene Rich. All the nerve and volatility of the Winged City has been delightfully recaptured by the famous director who knows Paris as O. Henry knew New York.

Fun, fantasy and romance blend in the maxes of this frothy farital

mixup in which Irene Rich is starred as Madame Cartier, a happy young matron, who suddenly becomes aware that her husband, Huntly Gordon, for seven years faithful to the wedding vows has become infatuated with a bewitching blonde, Suzanne, played by Lilyan Tashman.

In retaliation the lovely Madame begins a half-hearted *affaire de coeur* with Suzanne's fiancée, William Demarest. Intervention of a well-meaning friend, Otis Harlan, brings about such complications as never before have mystified newlyweds or nearly-weds either, since time began.

How the friend, having got them into a tangle, proceeds with startling alacrity to get them out—makes as amusing a picture as the screen has known for years. "Don't Tell the Wife" comes to the Grand Theatre next Monday for a three days run. THE YIDDISH THEATRE.

Our people in Cape Town will learn with satisfaction that the Yiddish company, whose recent season proved so popular, have arranged a further season from Tuesday next to Saturday, June 25th, with a repertoire of new operettas, melodramas and comedies. The first piece will be

the operetta "Die Kafkazer Liebe" ("Caucasian Love"), which was a great success as the company's opening piece in Johannesburg. Gorgeous costumes, special scenic effects and artistic decorations are features of the operetta, which will be staged only on Tuesday and Wednesday, and will be followed by "The Wedding Gown" and "Bar-Kochba," particulars of which will be given later. Booking is now open at the Opera House.

### A SUDDEN DEATH.

According to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Sam Bernard, the famous Jewish comedian, producer and playwright died suddenly of apoplexy on board the S.S. "Columbus," while on his way to London. Bernard who was sixty-four years of age, was born in Birmingham, in England, and first went on the stage at the age of thirteen. He did variety turns in Coney Island, and afterwards became famous for his renderings of Jewish characters. He appeared in London with great success in 1914. Bernard was Vice-President of the Jewish Theatrical Guild.

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