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## YIDDISH THEATRICAL SEASON

### Production Of "The Last Dance"

Mr. Joel Myerson is to be congratulated upon his initiative in presenting Yiddish opera (or is it operetta?) to the public of Johannesburg. That his enterprise is appreciated was well demonstrated on Monday evening when a packed house at the Standard Theatre applauded vigorously the production of the "The Last Dance" and appeared to enjoy the musical and dramatic fare supplied.

It had been previously announced that Vera Kanevskya, the well known artiste, would appear in a leading role, and the audience was pleasantly surprised when her partner, Paul Breitman, appeared in the main role of the operetta. This singer was in good voice and gave a really fine performance.



**FANNY SUGARMAN**  
the well-known singer, who plays a prominent part in the new season of Yiddish operettas.

The far-fetched plot of the operetta was forgotten in admiration for one of the best productions I have seen on the Yiddish stage in this country. Much credit is due to the African Theatres for their co-operation in affording all the necessary equipment, lighting, scenery and decoration necessary for a really smart musical production.

Leading local amateur talent was given an opportunity, and Mr. Myerson is to be congratulated on his choice in this direction. The performance of Fanny Sugarman, the well-known Pretoria singer — in an important part — demonstrated that she had real histrionic talent, not only as a singer but also as actress. Her nervousness will disappear as she acquires more stage experience. Miss Anna Donna was charming in the role assigned to her. She sings well and her fine assurance on the stage gives tone and ease to her work. Vera Karnevskya played a lively soubrette character and her happiness communicated itself to those on the stage as well as in the auditorium.

An interesting feature was some ballet dancing by the pupils of Poppy Frames' Dancing Studio. A word must be said about the orchestra, which indeed is the best I have ever heard at a Yiddish theatre production here. Once again the African Theatres are to be congratulated upon their happy foresight. The orchestra did well and was ably conducted by Mr. Sam Miller. The next production by the International Yiddish Opera Company, which will be "Kol Nidrei," is likely to attract similarly large audiences to the Standard Theatre.

# Social and

Rev. I. H. Levine, B.A., of Sea Point, and Mrs. Levine have sailed for England. They will be away for six months.

Mr. and Mrs. K. Norwitz, of 3, Winifred Road, Parktown, Johannesburg, have received cable news from Edinburgh that their son, Dr. I. Norwich, has been successful in obtaining the F.R.C.S. degree.

Harold Leonard, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Wolpe, Becker Street, Yeoville, will read a portion of the Law at the Yeoville Synagogue, Johannesburg, on Saturday, January 28th.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Blackstone (nee Mary Salamson) are being congratulated on the birth of a son.

Hymie, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Goldman, First Street, Boksburg North, will read a portion of the Law at the Boksburg North Synagogue, on Saturday, 28th January.

The engagement is announced of Ettie, second daughter of Mrs. E. Kahn and the late Mr. N. Kahn, of Zeimelis, Lithuania, and niece of Mr. and Mrs. H. Feldman, of Rooiwal, to Abe Herbert, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Meyer Shapiro, Parys, Orange Free State.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Magid (nee Leah Sarankin) are being congratulated on the birth of a bonny daughter on the 16th inst.

The engagement is announced of Ida, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Kaufman, of Burky New Road, Manchester, England, to Charlie (Chonke), only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Cohen, of Doornfontein (formerly of Braamfontein).

Norman, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Israel Friedman, of Burger Street, Krugersdorp, will read a portion of the Law at the Krugersdorp Synagogue on Saturday, the 28th January.

The engagement is announced of Doreen, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. Finkelstein, to Simon, youngest son of Mr. and the late Mrs. B. Berson. Both of Johannesburg.

The marriage will take place between Ida, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Dimenstein, and Philip, son of Mr. and Mrs. K. Swerdlow, on Sunday, January 29th, at the Jeppes-town Synagogue, at 7.30 p.m.

Aubrey Charles, youngest son of Mr. and the late Mrs. H. Falkson, will read a portion of the Law at the Market Street Synagogue, Pretoria, on Saturday, January 28.

## ANNUAL PURIM BALL

### To Take Place On March 8th

The Johannesburg Women's Zionist League have made arrangements for the Annual Purim Ball to be held on March 8. For this the whole of the first floor of the Carlton Hotel has been booked and dancing will be in the ballroom and palm court with two orchestras responsible for the music. Mrs. W. Senior is the chairman, Mrs. S. Katzen and Mrs. I. J. Balkin, vice-chairmen, Mrs. A. Joffe, honorary treasurer, and Mrs. H. Davison, honorary secretary.

## MADAME JOHANNA THAL-BIRSEN

Madame Birsén, the well-known journalist who contributes to European newspapers, has left Johannesburg on a world trip. The first part of her journey will take her to America, which country she intends to tour.

On Friday evening last, a number of journalists met in order to extend a cordial farewell to Madame Birsén prior to her departure.

## JOHANNESBURG WOMEN'S ZIONIST LEAGUE

Members of the Study Circle of the League are notified that the Tuesday morning meetings will be resumed on the 7th February at 10 a.m. at the Coronation Hall, corner of Claim and Plein Sts. New members are welcome.

## STERLING-SEREBRO

THE Wolmarans Street Synagogue was crowded on Sunday the 15th inst. for the wedding between Minnie, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Serebro, of Germiston, and Louis, second son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Sterling, of Shavel.

The unterfuhrers were the bride's parents and Mr. and Mrs. M. Sterling, uncle and aunt of the bridegroom, who deputised for his parents who are overseas. The poleholders were the bride's two brothers, Messrs. S. and M. Serebro, Mr. A. Geivan and Mr. E. Greenblat.

The maid of honour was Miss Esther Lutrin and the bridesmaids were Miss Sara Lutrin, Miss Rhebie Sterling, Miss Doris Levinrad and Miss Minnie Lutrin. The flower girls, Essie Rosenberg and Estelle Abrahams, were accompanied by the page boy, Cyril Abrahams.

Mr. Lionel Rosenberg was the best man. The groomsmen were Mr. M. Lutrin, Mr. H. Josephson, Mr. S. Lewis and Mr. L. Joseph.

The reception was subsequently held at the Villa Georgette.

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# Personal

## MARRIED IN LONDON



[Photo: Pearl Freeman, (London).]

**MRS. LAWRENCE JACOBSON** (formerly Miss. Alethea Michel), younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. Michel, of Johannesburg, was married in London recently to Mr. Lawrence Jacobson, the younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson, of London.

## CELEBRATION OF SILVER WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Max Levin, of Palestine

The Silver Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Max Levin, formerly of Johannesburg, was celebrated on January 4th at their home on Mount Carmel. Mr. and Mrs. Levin were married at Vereeniging by the late Rev. Jacobs. They were well-known Zionists in South Africa and arrived in Palestine, with their family in May, 1935.

A certificate of the inscription of their names in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund was handed to the couple to celebrate the occasion, the funds for this being contributed by the WIZO, the Mount Carmel Synagogue, South African residents of Haifa, the Haifa Old Aged Home and friends of the Levin family.

Prominent members of the Jewish community of Haifa were present at the celebration, which was addressed by Mr. G. Levin, chairman of the Community Council.

## MR. I. M. GOODMAN

40 Years of Communal Service

The end of 1938 witnessed the retirement from active Jewish communal life in South Africa of Mr. I. M. Goodman, an interesting figure in the public life of the country. In relinquishing the post of Secretary of the Cape Committee of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies, Mr. Goodman has severed his connections with a body with which he has been associated for over thirty years.

Mr. Goodman joined the "Deputies" as member for Springs in 1908 and succeeded the late Richard Rosenthal as Honorary Secretary in 1909. On the amalgamation of the Transvaal Board with the Cape Board in 1912, he was elected on the first Executive Council, and was Hon. Treasurer from 1915 for several years.

Mayor of Springs for three years during 1913 to 1916, Mr. Goodman also held many other posts of importance during that period. He was the founder and Honorary Life President of Springs Hebrew Congregation, and was for a time Vice-President of the Witwatersrand Old Hebrew Congregation. He was associated with almost every Jewish activity in the Transvaal, and he it was who originated the idea of the Jewish War Memorial and was Chairman of the Executive of the Building Fund of this institution.

It will be recollected that Mr. Goodman was Editor and Compiler of the "S.A. Jewish Year Book" issued in 1929. He also founded and was Editor for many years of the "Ivri Onouchi," which later became the official organ of the Jewish Guild in Johannesburg.

Some years ago Mr. Goodman wrote a play called "Sugarman the Shadchan", a clever satire on communal life which has been produced successfully in various parts of the country.

Mr. Goodman was in active service as a young man during the Boer War, and after hostilities was awarded the Queen's and King's Medal.

## "MOTHER AND HOME"

The January issue of Weldons' publication "Mother and Home" has now been issued and is for sale, at 10d. per copy, at all newsagents and book-sellers. A special free pattern and a free gift book "The Home Handy-woman" are among the useful items included in this publication. The mothercraft, cookery, and needlework sections have some very good ideas, which will interest all mothers. The Central News Agency, Ltd., Johannesburg, are the sole South African agents for this publication.

## Around the..... Bioscopes

### COLOSSEUM ATTRACTIONS

Deanna Durbin continues to charm her audiences at the Colosseum in her latest picture "That Certain Age." Her acting is delightful and the songs she sings so well are all hits. Supporting her in the cast are Melvyn Douglas and Jackie Cooper with Irene Rich and John Halliday.

The next attraction at the Colosseum will be "Letter of Introduction" featuring Edgar Bergen, the ventriloquist with his character creations, Charlie McCarty and his country cousin Mortimer Snerd. Adolph Menjou and Andrea Leeds are other players in this most entertaining show.

### NEW PICTURE AT THE METRO

At the Metro this week Robert Montgomery, Virginia Bruce, Warren William and Binnie Barnes, take the leading roles in "The First Hundred Years". The feature of the film is a marital mix-up and the comedy element is fast and furious.

In the supporting programme, the news and comedy shorts are interesting while Dean Herrick entertains at the Wurlitzer organ.

### DELIGHTFUL SHOW AT THE PLAZA

Tom Walls has some hair-raising escapades and provides thrilling entertainment in his latest picture "Crackerjack" showing at the Plaza this week.

Commencing Monday, "Mother Carey's Chickens", featuring Anne Shirley, Fay Bainter and Ruby Keeler, will be shown. This R.K.O. Radio Picture combines the delightful tenderness of "Little Women" with the laughter and tears of "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch".

The supporting programme is up to its usual high standard.

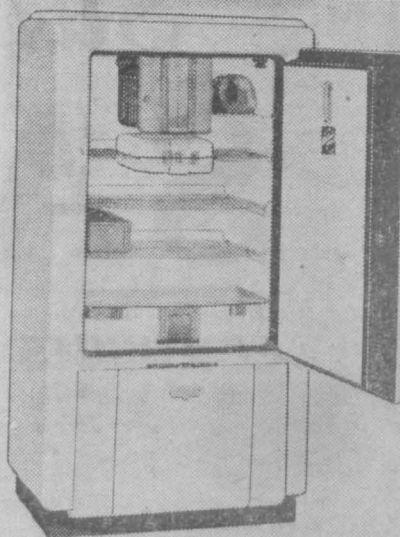
### BEAUTIFUL FRENCH FILM

"Mayerling" At The Empire

It is refreshing to turn away for a while from American and English films to a purely French production. "Mayerling," which will be shown on Monday evening at the Empire Theatre, is undoubtedly an outstanding production—a genuine masterpiece of photography. This was evidenced at the special pre-view. The film is produced in the French language, but there are excellent captions in English which adequately recount the moving story of the son of an Austrian king who loves a simple girl of the people. Some superb acting is given by the two leading players, Charles Boyer and Danielle Darrieux, and by a brilliant cast of French actors and actresses. Their work lends conviction to what is, after all, a modern fairy-tale.

"Mayerling" is a unique film which should not be missed by lovers of the genuinely artistic in film production. An added attraction at the Empire Theatre will be the re-appearance of Jimmy Clark who conducts the Empire Symphonators.

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