

"THE GREAT DICTATOR" AT 20th CENTURY

Johannesburg audiences flocked to the 20th Century Theatre this week to see Charlie Chaplin in his eagerly awaited picture, "The Great Dictator." They were not disappointed. The film is all that they were told it would be. Brilliant in its conception, telling in its satire, entertaining in its humour and moving in its underlying tragedy, "The Great Dictator" is undoubtedly a film that will make motion picture history.

In his dual roles as the Jewish barber and as the Dictator Hynkel, Chaplin brings into play all those magnificent gifts which have singled him out as one of the greatest actors in the world to-day. As in all his films during the past few years, he has tried to convey a message—this time a message aimed against the spirit of brute force and tyranny in which a large part of the world is engulfed—and he has done so through his own particular medium—comedy, and the shadow of comedy never far distant in a Chaplin film, pathos. He has done so, moreover, with the greatest possible effect. No one can see "The Great Dictator" and remain unmoved by the pitilessness and inhumanity of the Nazi regime, helpless with laughter though he may be at some of the ridiculous situations enacted before him; no one can see "The Great Dictator" and not realise very forcibly the far-reaching and devilish results which a system of government such as exists in Germany to-day must inevitably have. In this film Chaplin has executed one of the most masterly pieces of propaganda for free and democratic government that has ever been brought to the world.

Chaplin is, of course, the most important figure in this picture, but he has also gathered round himself a first-rate cast. Jack Oakie is excruciatingly funny as a thinly disguised version of Mussolini; Paulette Goddard as the Jewish girl in the ghetto gives a memorable performance; and Maurice Moscovitch, as another ghetto character, is responsible for a really fine piece of work. Incidentally, all the ghetto characters are exceedingly well drawn and true to type, and it was refreshing to note the absence of caricature and of sentimental tragedy—both of which are only too often portrayed in the presentation of ghetto scenes.

"The Great Dictator" is undoubtedly a picture that must be seen by all.

S.A. WOMEN'S ZIONIST COUNCIL

Name Omitted from Parcel for Palestine

Mrs. Fielding, of Durban, the Honorary Despatch-Organiser of the S.A. Women's Zionist Council, received a parcel in November of 196 beautifully made garments for despatch to Palestine. The group responsible did not include its name or address, and for this reason Mrs. Fielding was unable to acknowledge the parcel direct. Would the Sewing group concerned please get in touch with Mrs. Fielding, 14 Yorkshire House, Field Street, Durban.

MUSICAL SOCIETY'S CONCERT

Fine Performance by Eugen Magid and Bruno Raikin

There were some very good moments at the concert held by the Johannesburg Musical Society at the Selborne Hall on Monday night, when Eugen Magid (violin) and Bruno Raikin (piano) presented a large programme of works for violin and piano. The exceptionally large audience present on this occasion gave the two artists a most enthusiastic reception, recalling both of them for encores, which they generously gave.

Opening their programme with Cesar Franck's Sonata in A Major for violin and piano, Mr. Magid and Mr. Raikin gave an effective rendering of this interesting work, despite some preliminary patchiness in execution which passed away as the two artists settled down to their performance.

In Vivaldi's Concerto in A Minor, with its richly elaborated themes, Mr. Magid proved himself an understanding and sensitive violinist, endowed with the considerable technique which the composition demands, as well as with a nice appreciation of tone, and there were many highlights in his vigorous handling of the work. In the second half of the programme, Mr. Magid contributed a group of violin solos, the composers chosen by him including Szymanowski and Novacek.

Mr. Raikin chose as his major performance Chopin's Sonata in B Flat Minor, a work which he handled with less lyrical feeling than it deserved. Nevertheless his rendering of it was impressive and drew prolonged applause from the audience.

The group of short pieces for the piano which he played in the second half of the evening included works by Brahms, Scriabine and Moussorgsky, which allowed him many opportunities for revealing an amazing technical dexterity, as well as an awareness of the purpose of the composer.

Johannesburg Women's Zionist League

Kensington Branch.—On Wednesday, 26th ultimo, the fourteenth annual general meeting of this branch took place at the residence of Mrs. A. Friedgut. There were a good many members present, as well as Mrs. M. Franks, vice-chairman of the League, and Mrs. H. Davidoff, a member of the executive. Both visitors addressed the gathering.

In her presidential address Mrs. Friedgut said that the past year had been one of great activity and progress. She appealed to those present to come forward and join in the work for the coming year. The result of the election of the new committee was as follows: Chairman, Mrs. A. Friedgut; vice-chairmen, Mesdames A. Smith and J. Whiteson; secretary, Mrs. B. Benjamin; treasurer, Mrs. A. Smith. Committee: Mesdames R. Alge, H. Black, W. Carel, B. Daitz, H. Goldstein, S. Hammerslagh, M. Isaacs, L. Radus, J. Riscovitz, B. Sachs, P. Saffer, E. Segal, J. Simon, M. Saiewitz, Z. Toderowitz, A. Taitz and I. M. Willenzik.

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