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*Our Plays  
and Players*

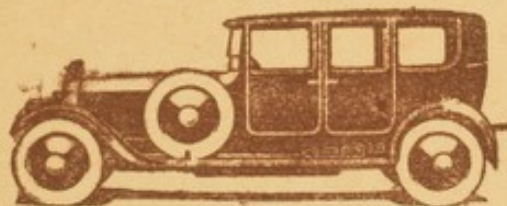
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# Our Plays and Players

Edited by WILLIAM PEACOCK

*Managing Director Grand Opera House, Harrogate*

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APRIL, 1933

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## A MONTHLY CHAT

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DEAR PATRONS,

It has recently been stated in the press that the public of Harrogate have hesitated to give us the support we had anticipated when "THE WHITE ROSE PLAYERS" were introduced, and that unless there was an improvement we should have to consider the question of closing the theatre during the winter months or converting it into a picture house. Either would be a drastic step for the theatre is part of the social life of the town. It is an important asset and any change would be regarded as a retrograde step suggesting that the town itself was going back instead of forward.

Happily, however, the past few weeks have shown that the people of Harrogate are not unmindful of their beautiful theatre and have come forward night after night in increasing numbers, so that now we may truthfully say "THE WHITE ROSE PLAYERS" have definitely come into their own. It may be that we have been too modest in stating their claims to recognition, or that other circumstances, such as the weather or the industrial depression, have conspired against us, but we are exceedingly gratified that conditions are changing for the better.

We have a repertory company second to none and the plays that are being presented are the best and most up-to-date. Admittedly tastes differ, yet we endeavour to meet the needs of all sections of the community, and the way that our friends are rallying round us, is proof that they intend to visit us week after week whether or not the production accords with their tastes.

Only a few weeks ago Miss Isobel Elsom, the celebrated actress, visited us and spoke in high terms of the theatre and the company. We sincerely ask you to do the same to your friends.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM PEACOCK.

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# THEATRICALS

MR. PAUL ROBESON will be seen again in London, as he is appearing at the Embassy with Miss Flora Robson.

\* \* \*

Another new show will be seen shortly at the Lyric, entitled "When Ladies Meet." The cast will include Miss Marie Tempest, Mr. Owen Nares and Miss Mary Newcombe.

\* \* \*

The old theatre at Stratford-on-Avon is not to be completely destroyed, but is to be turned into a conference hall to hold about 400 people.

The seating will be removable, and the floor is being constructed so that it can be used for dances.

Also, there will be a gallery and a suite of committee rooms.

\* \* \*

Mr. George Robey, after his long fight with Equity, from which he gained so much newspaper publicity (an amount that money could not buy), has successfully appeared in "Jolly Roger" at the Savoy.

There can never have been a stage artiste who has had such a long run and received so much remuneration. Even some of the highly paid screen stars could be envious of Mr. Robey's weekly reward.

The main thing with him is that whatever the pros and cons may be, he can always pack a theatre—which is its own answer. We hope that he will reign for many days to come, as it is such figures that keep the stage very much alive.

\* \* \*

President Hoover's Research Committee on Social Trends have reported that there are now 40,000 actors and 13,000 professional authors in the States. No doubt that is the reason things are so bad amongst them, as they are not all what they claim to be.

## For Ladies Only

THE habits and modes of some of our world famous actresses are always interesting news. The fact that their originality is beyond the pockets of most people matters very little; the most important fact to the world is that its favourite actresses are the most unique.

One famous actress took part in a show in which it was impossible to get the correct shade of carpet, so one was produced hand-painted. This immediately made it necessary for her to have hand-painted linoleum in her kitchen, breakfast room and boudoir. Needless to say, this fad has already become fashionable, and no doubt will be more so in the future.

The very fact that a certain prominent young lady has taken a fancy to blue assures us that blue will be the most fashionable colour this spring.

A beautiful actress has for some time now refused to have a coloured flower in her home, she insists that all blooms must be white.

There is another lady whose name will become known all over the world who has had an evening dress made of white corduroy with crystal buttons.

Furthermore, recently an actress appeared at a dinner wearing a wine-red velvet ensemble that had an unique wrap. It had only one sleeve caught into a tight cuff, and the other side of the wrap was a wide cape.

We have all heard of the world-famous film star who has the habit of wearing men's clothes. This is a fashion which is hardly recommended, in spite of the so-called equality of the sexes. The fact remains that the majority of our actresses attain their popularity for the simple reason that their habits and fashions remain definitely feminine.

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## THE GREAT ADVENTURE

By ARNOLD BENNETT.

This great play by a great author is delightful entertainment and when presented at the Kingsway Theatre in London, with Henry Ainley and Wish Wynne as the stars, had one of the longest runs on record.

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**C**ORA: "Would you marry a man  
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**DORA:** "Not exactly. But I'd  
want my husband to have a lovely  
disposition, and if he didn't have  
money, he'd very likely be worried and  
ill-natured."

\* \* \*

"Dearest Annabelle," wrote Oswald,  
who was hopelessly in love: "I would  
swim the mighty ocean for one glance  
from your dear eyes. I would walk  
through a wall of flames for one touch  
of your little hands. I would leap the  
widest stream in the world for a word  
from your lovely lips. As always, your  
Oswald."

**P.S.**—"I'll be over Saturday night  
if it doesn't rain."

\* \* \*

"For two cents," said the policeman,  
angrily, "I'd run you in."

"Good thing you made it two,"  
declared the bold bad youth, "because  
one copper couldn't do it."

\* \* \*

**HUSBAND:** "Another new hat.  
Aren't you playing with our Budget?"

**WIFE:** "Why, no dear. You know  
we made a liberal allowance for over-  
head charges."

\* \* \*

**HUBBY:** "You didn't have a rag on  
your back when I married you."

**WIFE:** "Anyway, I've plenty on it  
now."

\* \* \*

"So you want to marry my daughter,  
eh? Have you any business judg-  
ment?"

"Well, sir, I'm trying to get into  
your family, am I not?"

\* \* \*

**FRIEND:** "What's your son's aver-  
age income?"

**FATHER:** "From two to two-thirty  
a.m."



## THEATRICALS

The London theatres are at last going out of their way to compete with the cinemas. The only way in which they have not been able to hold their own is in the question of prices.

\* \* \*

Actually it was non-stop variety that gave them the lead. A performance run on the same lines as the cinema, with cinema prices.

Now we have the Duchess theatre doing well, and charges are only 1/- to 6/-.

Other and bigger theatres, though not quite coming down to such low charges, are reducing them. It only needs a wholesale lowering of prices on the part of the bigger and better known theatres and there will definitely begin a boom period.

\* \* \*

Whatever the counter attractions, there will always be a market for the theatre if the prices are correct. One good move would be that all the leading artistes should work on a percentage basis. Some of them would then get a real idea as to their box-office value.

\* \* \*

"The Dubarry" at His Majesty's Theatre is about to attain its 400th performance—definitely an achievement of which to be proud, and a great personal triumph for Miss Anny Ahlers—her memories of England should at least be pleasant.

\* \* \*

The Repertory movement is spreading all over England, and reports are coming in of Repertory Companies which have been started, or are in the process of being built up.

— PATRONS —

who would like a copy of this Magazine posted to them each month should leave their Name and Address at the Theatre Box Office.

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“THE QUEEN WAS IN THE PARLOUR,” “BLUE SKY BEYOND,”  
“NEVER COME BACK,” “THE PAINTED VEIL,” “FIREBIRD,”  
“HAWK ISLAND,” “MUSICAL CHAIRS,” “INTIMATE RELATIONS,”  
“PAYMENT DEFERRED.”

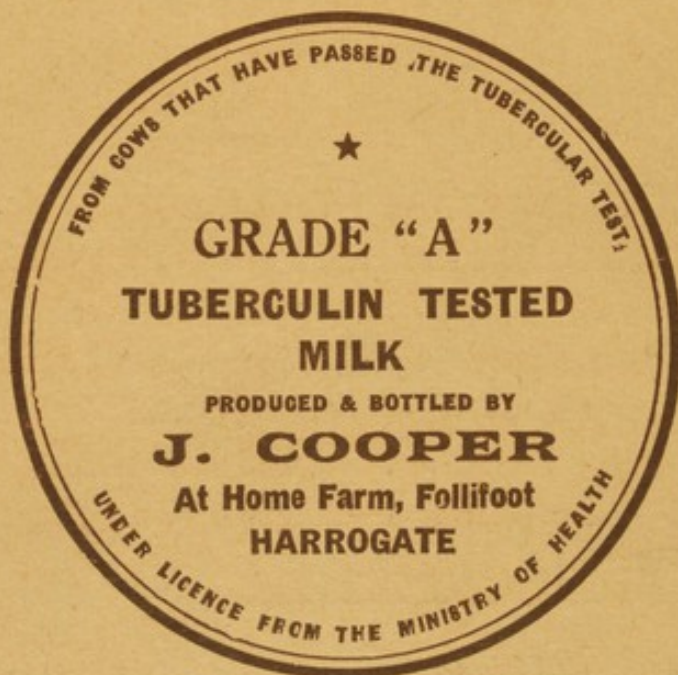


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