

DARLING I LOVE YOU

London run: Gaiety Theatre, January 22nd (147 performances)

Music: H.B. Hedley & Harry Acres

Lyrics: Desmond Carter

Book: Stanley Brightman & Arthur Rigby

Director: Laddie Cliff

Choreographer: Frederick Lord

Musical Director: George Myddleton

Cast: George Clarke (*Bertie Bundy*),

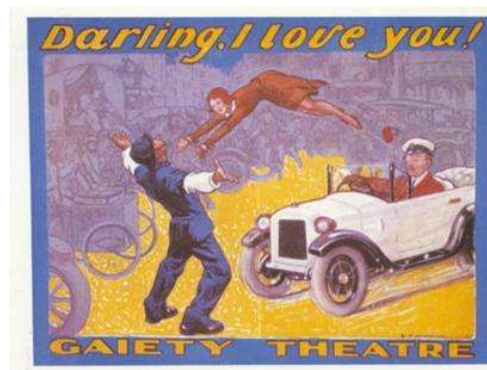
Griffith Humphreys (*Hugo Baritz*),

Wyn Richmond (*Bubbles Bundy*), Neil McKay (*Douglas McHaig*),

Frank Freeman (*Sir Herbert Sylvester*),

Vera Lennox (*Peggy Sylvester*), Harold French (*Bobby Darrell*), William Kendall (*Smooth Jim*),

Florence Vie (*Countess*), Charles Paton (*Jennings the Butler*)



Songs: Lovely Lady, (*Interpolated songs:* Shooing the Blues & I Know Something [Mayerl & Eyton] Now I'm in Love [Yellen & Shapiro])

Story: Bertie Bundy, drummer and saxophonist in Hugo Baritz's band, is married to Bubbles Bundy, and whenever he upsets her she has a worrying habit of throwing her arms around the nearest man and trying to kiss him. This embarrassing action is immediately ended when Bertie calls out the words "Darling I Love You!". Bertie and the Scottish musician Douglas McHaig, turn up hours late for a booking at the mansion of Sir Herbert Sylvester – they are to perform for the Earl of Fawcett. But the Earl has failed to turn up, and Sir Herbert's daughter, Peggy (in love with the Hon. Bobby Darrell) persuades Bertie & Douglas to impersonate the missing Earl and his manservant – and in return she will arrange for a public performance of the Rhapsody written by Bertie. With a jewel thief, Smooth Jim, after the Countess's jewels, and with Baritz desperately seeking the missing "Rhapsody" orchestrations, plus a dancing butler, and a comedy car, this was a farcical romp with songs.

Notes: In spite of poor notices the show managed a four month run.



SILVER WINGS

London run: Dominion, February 14th (170 performances)

Music: Jack Waller & Joseph Tunbridge

Book & Lyrics: Dion Titheradge & Douglas Furber

Director: William Mollison

Choreographer: Ralph Reader

Musical Director: Joseph Tunbridge

Cast: Donald Mather (*Philip Marvin*), Lupino Lane (*Jerry Wimpole*),

Dennis Hoey (*Sir George Farley*), Desirée Ellinger (*Inez*),

Harry Welchman (*Pablo Santos*), Emma Haig (*Sadie*),

Arthur Finn (*Christopher Cross*), Tessa Deane (*Carlotta*), Iris Darbyshire (*Cecilia*),

Cowboy (*Art Fowler*).

Songs: Asleep in my Heart, Far Away, Indispensible You, Montezuma, Rebels are Out,

Dance at our Wedding

Story: Air pilot Philip Marvin and his stowaway passenger Jerry Wimpole crash-land in Mexico, through the roof of the house occupied by Sir George Farley, whose daughter, Inez, is about to be married to Pablo Santos. Marvin loses his memory as a result of the crash, and, as Inez looks after him, they fall in love. Pablo is a bandit, and when he finds out Marvin is the son of an English millionaire, he kidnaps him and demands a great ransom. Pablo takes him to the mountains, to the ruins of an Aztec city, and hides him amongst a large number of festival-celebrating Mexicans. Meantime Jerry has his share of romance with Sadie, a kittenish young American, and the story involves further comic escapades with Carlotta, a Mexican girl, with Cecilia and with a banjo playing cowboy.

Notes: Based on the 1920 American play "The Broken Wing" by Paul Dickey and C.W. Goddard, which had been a hit in London as a straight play some years earlier. The crash-landing of the aeroplane was one of the most spectacular scenes ever staged in London, and was talked of for years to come. The Aztec scenes, with well over a hundred dancers, were a magnificent spectacle; the singing and comedy were top class; and the show received massive publicity with newspaper articles and radio broadcasts. However, it lasted just 170 performances and failed to recover its production costs. A young Ralph Richardson appeared in a small supporting role in this musical.



Jean Colin

HERE COMES THE BRIDE

London run: Piccadilly Theatre, February 20th

Transfer: Lyceum, May 26th (175 performances)

Music: Arthur Schwartz

Lyrics: Desmond Carter, etc

Book: R.P. Weston & Bert Lee

Director: Julian Wylie

Choreographer: Frederick Lord

Musical Director: Leonard Hornsey

Cast: Maria Minetti (*Maria Tile*), Clifford Mollison (*Frederick Tile*),

Jean Colin (*Kitty Sinclair*), Edmund Gwenn (*Robert Sinclair*),

Vera Bryer (*Pat Sinclair*), Richard Dolman (*Jim Carlton*),

Albert Brouett (*Roberto Ricardos*), Peggy Evelyn (*Flower Seller*),

Helen Howell with Harger & Mario Naldi (*Apache dancers*)

Songs: I'll Always Remember, Why Not Have a Little Party, No one to Blame but You, I Love You and I Like You, I'm Like a Sailor Home from the Sea, High and Low

Story: Wealthy Mexican, Mrs Maria Tile, will inherit a fortune at the end of the year, provided she is still married. But her real husband, Frederick, has vanished and/or died. Frederick Tile (another man of the same name and no relation whatsoever) has fallen out with his beloved Kitty, and because of a misguided investment, owes £4,000 to her furious father, Robert Sinclair. The answer is obvious: Frederick undergoes a marriage of convenience with Maria, and is able to pay off his debts with money to spare. With the debt repaid and Frederick now very wealthy, how can he get out of the marriage? Luckily Maria's real husband turns up and claims his wife, freeing all for a happy ending. A secondary romance involves Kitty's sister, Pat, with Frederick's work colleague, Jim Carlton; and other sub-plots involve Roberto Ricardos, a South-American gold-digger with an eye on marrying Mrs Tile for her money, and a scene-stealing appearance of a flower-seller called in to witness the registry office wedding.

Notes: Adapted from the play by Edgar MacGregor & Otto Harbach, this farce incorporated a lot of Spanish/Mexican dancing, acrobatics, an apache dance, a mannequin parade of the latest gowns and a chorus line that frequently popped on and off for no apparent reason. It went down well with audiences and critics alike.

THE DAMASK ROSE

London run: Savoy, March 26th (Short run)

Music: Chopin

Lyrics: G.H. Clutsam

Book: G.H. Clutsam & Robert Courtneidge

Director: Robert Courtneidge

Cast: John Morel (*Stanislas*), Wilma Berkeley (*Wanda*),
Walter Passmore (*Count Theodore Volny*), Henry Millidge (*Count Tarlo*),
Billi Leonard (*Jan*), Nancie Lovat (*Maryta*), Amy Augarde (*Countess Maria*),
Tom Shelford (*Prince Dolgourski*)

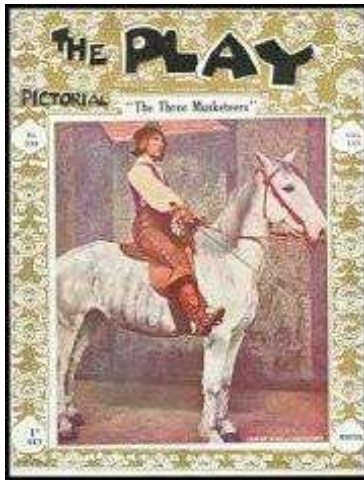
Songs: Love, I Will Hold You, Skies Will Be Bright Again, Polish Dance,
O Damask Rose, National Song, A Little Cloud Across the Sky,
Love's Dream, You'll Be Queen, The Rose May Tell You,

Story: In mid-18th century Poland, King Stanislas Poniatowski, a gallant among gallants, has fallen in love with Wanda, the beautiful daughter of Count Volny. He wants to make her his Queen. Wanda was originally betrothed to Count Tarlo, but following a silly lover's quarrel she left him and moved to Warsaw. However, as the coronation approaches, she realises she is still really in love with Tarlo. King Stanislas chivalrously renounces his claim on her, leaving the young couple to happiness. He declares he will take only one wife – Poland itself, his native land. Interwoven is the story of romantic youth with Jan, the King's valet, and Maryta Kremer, Wanda's maid, and the story of romantic middle-age with Countess Maria and her two elderly suitors, Count Theodore and Prince Dolgourski



Nancie Lovat

Notes: This uses the music and themes of Chopin, and had originally opened at Golder's Green in June 1929 and had run successfully on tour over the past Christmas. However, it did not last very long at the Savoy.



THE THREE MUSKETEERS

London run: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, March 28th (240 performances)

Music: Rudolf Friml

Lyrics: Clifford Grey & P.G. Wodehouse

Book: William Anthony McGuire

Director: Felix Edwards

Choreographer: Anatole Bourman

Musical Director: Herman Finck

Producer: Alfred Butt

Cast: Dennis King (*d'Artagnan*), Adrienne Brune (*Constance Bonacieux*), Jerry Verno (*Planchet*), Marie Ney (*Lady de Winter*), Lilian Davies (*Queen Anne*), Webster Booth (*Duke of Buckingham*), Arthur Wontner (*Cardinal Richlieu*), Raymond Newell (*Aramis*), Robert Woolard (*Porthos*), Jack Livesey (*Athos*), Louis Hector (*De Rochefort*), George Bishop (*Louis XIII*), Moya Nugent (*Zoe*)

Songs: March of the Musketeers, He for Me, Ma Belle, Your Eyes, My Sword and I, Gascony, Queen of My heart

Story: The story tells of d'Artagnan's first meeting with the Three Musketeers, his romantic involvement with Constance, and his efforts to protect the Queen, whom the King – rightly! – suspects of infidelity.

Notes: The show had opened on Broadway in March 1928 and run for 319 performances. Dennis King had originated the role of d'Artagnan in New York and repeated his performance for the London run.

RIO RITA

London run: Prince Edward, April 3rd (59 performances)

Music: Harry Tierney

Lyrics: Joseph McCartney

Book: Guy Bolton & Fred Thompson

Director: John Harwood

Choreographer: Edward Royce, Jr
& Alexander Oumansky

Musical Director: John Heuvel

Producer: Lee Ephraim

Cast: Edith Day (*Rita Ferguson*), Geoffrey Gwyther (*Capt James Stewart*), Leslie Sarony (*Chick Beam*), George Gee (*Ed Lovett*), Rita Page (*Dolly*), Bernard Nedell (*General Romero Esteban*)

Songs: Rio Rita, The Rangers' Song, The Kinkajou, If You're in Love You'll Waltz, Following the Sun Around.

Story: Captain Jim of the Texas Rangers crosses the Mexican border to Santa Luca in pursuit of a bank robber. There he finds true love in the arms of the tempestuous Rita, despite the comic complications of Chick Beam and Ed Lovett.

Notes: This was a big hit on Broadway, presented by Florenz Ziefeld in February 1927 and running for 494 performances. It was the very first show to be performed at London's newly built Prince Edward Theatre but it failed to take off with audiences. The writer Edgar Wallace was called in during the first week and asked to do some re-writing to help save the show, but it came off after just 59 performances. A film version was made in 1929 with Bebe Daniels and John Boles, and this film had been shown in London six months before the stage version opened. There was a great deal of argument about whether the film had killed the theatre business, and whether films should be shown before and planned stage production. However, since the film itself had been a flop, the arguments faded.



Rita Page as Dolly with the girls performing *The Kinkajou*

HEADS UP

London run: Palace Theatre, May 1st (20 performances)

Music: Richard Rodgers

Lyrics: Lorenz Hart

Book: John McGowan & Paul Gerard Smith

Director: Harry Howell

Choreographer: Elsie Neal

Musical Director: Maurice Besley

Cast: Sydney Howard (*Skippy Duggan*), Janet Velie (*Martha Trumbell*), Edmund Willard (*Captain Denny*), Clarice Hardwick (*Betty Boyd*), Harland Dixon (*George*), Louise Brown (*Mary*), Jack Hobbs (*Rex Cutting*), Arthur Margetson (*Lt. Jack Mason*)

Songs: Me for you, My Man Is on the Make, A Ship Without a Sail, It Must Be Heaven, You've Got to Surrender, Play Boy, Mother Grows Younger, Why Do You Suppose, Ongsay and Anceday, Knees

Story: Skippy Duggan is a Sing-Sing crook turned cook and inventor. Whilst acting as chef on board Martha Trumbell's yacht, the Silver Lady, he plucks up courage to help the USA naval police against Captain Denny, who has been secretly using the boat for bootlegging purposes. In the course of the story Duggan becomes a millionaire as inventor of a patent lifebelt with compartments for milk, other creature comforts and cookery books. This contrivance saves the life of Denny, who cannot swim, and who ends up as uniformed chauffeur to the newly enriched Skippy. Skippy himself ends up romantically hooked to Betty Boyd, who settles for Skippy after being jilted by the rich nincompoop George. A more conventional romantic sub-plot has Martha's daughter, Mary,

wooded by boring Rex Cutting but ending up with dashing Lieutenant Jack Mason of the Navy.

Notes: The Broadway production starring Victor Moore and Ray Bolger ran for 144 performances. The London production was a complete flop, with neither critics nor audiences warming to the wise-cracking, cynical characters nor caring much for the Prohibition story. "Too American" was the general response.



Photo by Stage Photo Co

Clarice Hardwick & the boys

THE BEGGAR'S OPERA (Revival)

London run: Lyric Hammersmith, May 13th

Music: Various (arranged by Frederic Austin)

Book & Lyrics: John Gay

Director: Nigel Playfair

Cast: Scott Russell (*Peachum*), Elsie French (*Mrs Peachum*), Olive Groves (*Polly Peachum*), Frederick Ranalow (*Macheath*), Florence Hayes (*Lucy Lockitt*),

Notes: The Beggar's Opera was written in 1728 by John Gay with music arranged by Johann Christoph Pepusch. It is the only example of the genre of satirical ballad opera which remains popular today, and was first performed at the Lincoln's Inn Fields Theatre on January 29th 1728. It ran for 62 consecutive performances, the longest run in theatre history up to that time. As a result of the profits from this show the producer John Rich was able to build a new theatre, the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden. It was known as the show that "made Gay rich, and Rich gay"

During the 19th century it was mostly forgotten, with the only significant revivals being in September 1807 with Charles Incedon as Macheath and Mrs Charles Kemble as Lucy, and again in February 1820 when the role of Macheath was played by Madame Vestris. Her success in this breeches role was considerable and was repeated several times over the next decade. Thereafter the show disappeared from the repertoire.

The 1920 revival was an astonishing success, running for 1,463 performances at the Lyric Hammersmith, and was a great personal success for its director, Nigel Playfair. It restored the work to its now accepted classic status as "the earliest British musical". This was a straightforward revival of the 1920 version.

LILAC TIME (4th Revival)

London run: Lyric Theatre, May 26th – July 12th
Music: Franz Schubert (additions by G.H. Clutsam.)
Book & Lyrics: A.M. Willner & Heinz Reichert
English Book & Lyrics: Adrian Ross
Director: Lee Ephraim
Musical Director: Jacques Heuvel

Cast: Frederick Blamey (*Schubert*), Gertrude Wolffe (*Lili*),
 Thorpe Bates (*Von Schober*), Lionel Victor (*Christian Veit*)

Songs: Hark Hark the Lark, Under the Lilac Bough, The Golden Song, Serenade, My Sweetest Song of All, Oh the Maytime is a Gaytime, Just a Little Ring, Four Jolly Brothers, Dream Enthralling, When Skies Are Blue.

Story: In Old Vienna the young composer, Franz Schubert, writes a beautiful love song dedicated to his beloved Mitzi. But he is too shy to sing it himself, and asks his best friend, Baron von Schober, to sing it to her. Sadly she falls in love with the Baron instead of poor Franz, who has to find consolation in their happiness - and in his music. Sub-plots tell of Mitzi's two sisters, Litzi and Fritzi and their boyfriends; a temperamental prima-donna and a jealous Count.

Notes: Based on the 1916 Viennese operetta "Das Dreimädlerhaus". The English version premiered at the Lyric Theatre in December 1922. It was enormously popular, and this was its fourth revival in the West End. Some of the earlier versions used the original German version name "Lili" instead of "Mitzi"

Original London production: Lyric Theatre, December 1922

First Revival: Lyric, December 1925; Second Revival: Daly's December, 1927;

Third Revival: Daly's Theatre, 1928



Photo by Stage Photo Co

*Courice Pounds & Clara Butterworth
 from the original 1922 production*



Photo by Stage Photo Co

Laddie Cliff, Cyril Ritchard & Stanley Lupino

THE LOVE RACE

London run: Gaiety, June 25th (237 performances)

Music: Jack Clarke

Lyrics: Desmond Carter

Book: Stanley Lupino

Director: Stanley Lupino

Choreographer: Frederick Lord

Musical Director: Harry Acres

Cast: Violet Farebrother (*Mrs Mostyne*), Fay Martin (*Ida*),
 Laddie Cliff (*Bobby*), Arthur Rigby Jr (*Horace Powley*),
 Stanley Lupino (*Reggie*), Harry Wotton (*William Dale*),
 Madge Elliott (*Mary*), Cyril Ritchard (*Harry Drake*),
 Frederick Conyngham (*Freddy*), Esme Tosh (*Bena*),
 Wyn Weaver (*Ferdinand Fish*), Connie Emerald (*Rita Payne*).

Songs: Love Somebody, Don't You See, Why Not Fall for
 Someone New?, Hang on to Me, Frivolous Feet, You Can't
 Keep a Good Man Down, Spring is in the Air.

Story: The Mostynes – Mother, daughter Ida and son Bobby - are rivals to the Powleys – Father Horace and son Reggie – since both families are involved in the racing car business. But in Montague/Capulet style, Ida and Reggie fancy each other. Then there's Labour MP, William Dale, anxious to prevent a marriage between his daughter Mary and a "talkies" film-star, Harry, who fancy each other. And there's Freddy and Bena, who also fancy each other. Throw in Ferdinand Fish, a completely mad new husband for Mrs Mostyne, a Rita Payne whose suitcase of lady's underwear (initials R.P.) gets mixed up with Reggie's case (also R.P.!), add nine songs, a lot of dancing and a final racing-car competition ending in a dead-heat – and the result is a typical Stanley Lupino/Laddie Cliff musical comedy which dominated the era.



SONS O' GUNS

London run: London Hippodrome, June 26th (211 performances)

Music: Arthur Swanstrom, Benny Davis & Fred Coots

Book & Lyrics: Fred Thompson, Jack Donohue & Bobby Connolly

Directed: William Mollison

Choreographer: Ralph Reader

Musical Director: Simms Waller

Cast: Bobby Howes (*Jimmy Canfield*), Robert Hale (*Sergeant Hobson*), Robert English (*General Harper*), Jill Patson (*Mary Harper*), Mireille Perrey (*Yvonne*), Peter Haddon (*Major Ponsonby-Falcke*), Bruce Carfax (*Arthur Travers*)

Songs: Sentimental Melody, The Victory Parade, Why, Cross Your Fingers, It's You I Love, Let's Merge, There's a Rainbow on the Way, I'm That Way Over You

Story: During the Great War rich young Jimmy Canfield is shamed into joining the army and sent to France where he is drilled by Sergeant Hobson - who used to be Jimmy's valet back in peacetime. Jimmy's Commanding Officer is General Harper whose daughter, Mary, is Jimmy's fiancée. But Jimmy falls head over heels in love with Yvonne, the daughter of a French innkeeper. The innkeeper is a spy and one night Jimmy innocently releases some of his pigeons who carry messages to the Germans. Jimmy is sent to prison but manages to escape by tricking a drunken English major into parting with his uniform. Once free, Jimmy redeems himself by capturing a German machine-gun nest single-handed. Then everything is cleared up and all ends happily for Yvonne and Jimmy, and for Mary, who, far from being abandoned, fell in love with handsome Arthur Travers.

Notes: This show opened in New York on November 26th 1929 and ran for 295 performances. Its original soldiers-on-Broadway setting and story was much altered for the British production. With several stirring scenes of British Tommies and officers, the war scenes were felt by some to be too effective for the purposes of musical comedy, but Bobby Howes was a great hit in the part and the show had a respectable run. A considerably revised American film version was made in 1936 starring Joe E. Browne and Joan Blondell.

ELDORADO

London run: Daly's, September 3rd (93 performances)

Music: G. Ruthland Clapham

Lyrics: G. Ruthland Clapham & Gerald Robinson

Book: Gerald Robinson, Gus Dale & Ernest Trimmingham

Director: Oscar Ashe

Choreographer: Edward Royce

Musical Director: Arthur Wood

Cast: Desiree Ellinger (*Elvira*), Donald Mather (*Jose*), Oscar Ashe (*Alcido*), George Ide (*Pedro*), Mark Daly (*Dunnum*), Geoffrey Davies (*Carlos*), Jerry Verno (*Budwell*), Earle Stanley (*Guy Hinton*). Charles Cautley (*Archie Newton*),

Songs: Aren't we Little Devils?, Ever and Forever, Since I Met You, The Janeiro Jazz, Buzzin' Around, I'm Blue, Love that is Dead

Story: Senorita Elvira de Urquiza is the heroine, Senor José de Barros is the hero, but they come from different, feuding families, and José's father Alcido has his son kidnapped by his gauchos rather than allow him to marry into the Urquizas. Elvira's father, Pedro, is also opposed to the union. They will, of course, eventually get together for a happy ending helped by Carlos, the preferred bridegroom as far as the families are concerned. Meantime there is considerable diversion over the search for a stolen diamond of fabulous price, and various fake imitations of the same. Dunnum, the comedy detective is pursuing Budwell, the comedy crook, and at the same time as another two crooks, Archie Newton and Guy Hinton are on the diamond hunt as well.

Notes: The story took place on a magnificent ocean liner set and then in a colourful and exotic South American port. It was lavish, spectacular and superbly staged. . . but. . .this was a show that had been in the offing for some two years during which time as many as eight different writers had been involved. "Too many cooks" was the general cry from the critics. It was too long, lacking focus, and some of its lyrics were "hopelessly crude" for the critic in "The Stage". It had a short run and lost a fortune.



Desiree Ellinger & Donald Mather

Photo by Sasha

OPEN YOUR EYES

London run: Piccadilly Theatre, September 8th (24 performances)

Music: Vernon Duke & Carroll Gibbons

Lyrics: James Dyrenforth & Collie Knpx

Book: Frederick Jackson

Additional lyrics: H.Judge Robinson

Director: John Harwood

Choreographer: Edward Royce Jr

Musical Director: Victor Roberts

Cast: Billy Leonard (*George Fox*), George Vollaire (*Count Zanini*), Nancie Lovat (*Countess Zanini*), Herbert Mundin (*Merlin Montague*), Stephanie Stephens (*Michelford*), Veronica Brady (*Rosalie Symes*), Harry Milton (*Renwick Clarke*)

Songs: Vodka, Family Tree

Story: George Black Fox, disguised as an aristocrat, is a thief intent on robbing the jewels of the Count and Countess Zanini. Merlin Montague, disguised as a Russian nobleman, is a detective on the look-out for George. The maid, Michelford, once an accomplice of George's, is now trying to go "straight" as a maid. When the jewels go missing, suspicion falls on the innocent Renwick Clarke, especially since Mrs Rosalie Symes is convinced Renwick is the real thief.

Notes: This show had started a provincial tour in August 1929 at Edinburgh, but had rapidly failed after just three weeks, leaving many bills and the cast unpaid. A re-written version with additional songs and lyrics was revived in August 1930 and played three weeks at the Piccadilly as part of its new tour. The opening week at the Piccadilly saw some of the musicians go on strike because of unpaid money from earlier weeks, and the critics gave it a very poor reception. After the West End run it lasted another three weeks and ended again in bankruptcy.



Joseph Hislop

FREDERICA

London run: Palace Theatre, September 9th (110 performances)

Music: Franz Lehar

Book & Lyrics: Ludwig Herzer & Fritz Lohner

English Book & Lyrics: Harry Pepper & Adrian Ross

Director: Felix Edwards

Choreographer: Fred Lord

Musical Director: Jacques Heuvel

Producer: Laddie Cliff

Cast: Joseph Hislop (*Goethe*), Lea Seidl (*Frederica*), Leonard Russell (*Johann Brion*), Florence Vie (*Magdalena Brion*), Vera Lennox (*Solomea*), William Kendall (*Dr Weyland*), Roddy Hughes (*Jacob Lenz*)

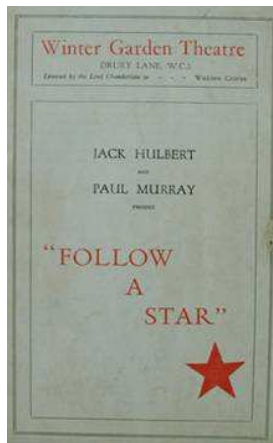
Songs: Oh Maiden My Maiden, Love Will Kiss and Ride Away, Little Roses Little Flowers, Why Did You Kiss My Heart Awake?, A Heart as Pure as Gold, Whenever Woman Holds Her Sway, I Live For Your Love, My Heart Lies In Your Hands

Story: Set in Germany and France in the 1770s, this is the story of young Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, the celebrated German poet, and his doomed love for Frederica Brion, whose father, Johann, is the Vicar of Sessenheim. Anxious not to stand in the way of Goethe's career, Frederica sacrifices her love for him. A subplot involves Frederica's sister, Solomea, who almost makes a muddle of her marriage to Dr Weyland, and of poor faithful Jacob Lenz, who loves both sisters in vain.

Notes: Franz Lehár's operetta combining biography with historical romance opened at the Metropol Theater in Berlin with Richard Tauber on October 4th 1928 to great acclaim. The English version had a more muted response in spite of the star attractions of the famous tenor Joseph Hislop and Lea Seidl imported from Vienna. The New York production opened in February 1937 with Helen Gleason and Dennis King.

Lea Seidl





FOLLOW A STAR

London run: Winter Garden. September 17th – December 6th

Re-opened : December 22nd – January 10th 1931 (Total 118 performances)

Music: Vivian Ellis

Lyrics: Douglas Furber

Sophie Tucker songs: Jack Yellen & Ted Shapiro

Book: Douglas Furber & Dion Titheradge

Director-Choreographer: Jack Hulbert

Musical Director: Syndey Baynes

Cast: Sophie Tucker (*Georgia Maidson*), A.W.Baskcomb (*Timothy Boon*), Alfred Drayton (*Leicester Mellish*), Irene Russell (*Lalique*), Charles Courtneidge (*Chester Smith*), Betty Davies (*Merrie Boon*), Jack Hulbert (*Bobby*).

Songs: (Yellen & Shapiro) I Never Can Think of the Words, Rome, Follow a Star, An International Sweetheart, That's Where the South Begins) (Vivian Ellis & Furber) If Your Kisses Can't Hold the Man You Love, The First Weekend in June, Don't Wear Your Heart on Your Sleeve, The English Gentleman.

Story: Leicester Mellish and his wife, Lalique, run a New York night-spot, whose star attraction is singer Georgia Madison. But Georgia comes as a package with her husband, Timothy Boom, an incompetent conjurer. One of his tricks goes disastrously wrong, possibly killing Chester Smith, and this supposed murder leads to a blackmail attempt. Meantime Timothy inherits a British title, and moves to London where Georgia, now Lady Bohun, carries on her cabaret career, and where her daughter, Merrie, falls in love with Bobby Hilary, who has got a job as a club bouncer just to be near her.

Notes: Sophie Tucker was an international star, not seen in London for ten years. This was a much anticipated event, and the show was especially created around her, including a lengthy cabaret spot featuring Sophie Tucker favourites. One of the dance sequences featured a young Australian, Frederick (later Freddie) Carpenter, who would go on to greater fame. Audiences started dropping off after the first six weeks, and Sophie Tucker withdrew from the show and undertook a variety tour on the Moss Empire circuit. The show was re-written, with the cabaret act and speciality songs removed, and re-launched with Maisie Gay in the leading role. The new version lasted three weeks, and the total venture recorded losses in excess of £5,000.

LITTLE TOMMY TUCKER

London run: Daly's, November 19th (83 performances)

Music: Vivian Ellis

Book & Lyrics: Desmond Carter, Caswell Garth, Bert Lee & R.P. Weston

Director: William Mollison

Choreographer: Ralph Reader

Musical Director: Kennedy Russell

Producer: Herbert Clayton

Cast: Ivy Tresmand (*Thomasina Tucker*), Gene Gerrard (*Bill Coverdale*), Jean Adrienne (*Angela*), Alfred Wellesley (*Sir Jeremy*), Marjorie Chard (*Princess Paula Karazoff*), Fred Groves (*Bannister Blair*), Rita Page (*Judy Blair*), Melville Cooper (*Freddie Ffoliot*), Dudley Rolph (*Robin Greene*)

Songs: Let's Be Sentimental, I Have No Words, Out of the Blue, Glad, Practice on Me, Follow the Girl, Aladdin

Story: Three pairs of lovers find themselves at cross-purposes. Thomasina Tucker loves radio star "Bartholomew", simply from listening to the sound of his voice - she doesn't know his real identity is Bill Coverdale. In order to help the family finances "Tommy" is offered a job by Bannister Blair and his tomboy daughter, Judy—owners of the Regency night club. She is the replacement singer for an incompetent singing Russian Princess. "Tommy" is involved in a series of misunderstanding with her sister, Angela, her father Sir Jeremy Tucker, with Freddie Ffoliot (Angela's boyfriend) and Robin Greene (Judy's boyfriend) before everything is finally sorted out and "Tommy" gets her Bill.

Notes: The show came into town after a six week tour, having undergone some re-casting and re-writing. Although it opened to generally good notices, it didn't catch on, and ended after just two and a half months.



Rita Page

NIPPY

London run: Prince Edward, October 30th (137 performances)

Music: Bill Mayerl

Lyrics: Arthur Wimperis & Frank Eyton

Book: Arthur Wimperis & Austin Melford

Director: Julian Wylie

Choreographer: Frederick Lord

Musical Director: Debroy Somers

Producer: Julia Wylie & Moss Empires Ltd

Cast: Binnie Hale (*Nippy Grey*), Clifford Mollison (*Bob Dering*), Ernest Mainwaring (*Sir William*), Arthur Riscoe (*Albert Crumpet*), Margaret Baird (*Miss McTavish*), Betty Shale (*Mrs Grey*), Marjery Wyn (*Mary Massingham*), Reginald Purdell (*Hon Anthony Cheshire*),

Songs: The Toy Party, The Ring, It Must Be You, Your Sunny Disposition and Mine, I Feel So Safe with You, A Couple of Fine Old Schools, While We're in Love,



Binnie Hale

Story: Waitress Nippy Grey at the Lyons Corner House - rushed off her feet on Boat Race Night dealing with high-spirited toffs stealing policemen's helmets - is in love with personable Bob Dering, son of the grumpy Sir William. Enter talent-spotting film producer Albert Crumpet who has been tipped off by Miss MacTavish that this is where he might discover a "Bebe Daniels in the Lyons Den". Nippy is the one, of course, and she decides to leave Bob go to Hollywood - she knows that a marriage between an aristocrat and a waitress would ruin Bob's social prospects, so this might be for the best. While she is away Sir William becomes chairman of London's Resplendent Super Cinema, and Nippy becomes a major film-star complete with American accent. She returns in splendour to promote her all-talking, all-singing, all-dancing hit film "The Lady of Lyons". Naturally she is now wealthy enough to be an acceptable bride for the delighted Bob, and romance is also in the sub-plot air for Bob's friend Anthony Cheshire ("Cheesie") and Mary Massingham, and for an elderly pairing, Albert Crumpet and Mrs Grey

Notes: The critics loved Binnie Hale, praising her to the hilt, finding the show itself amusing, but sagging a little here and there. The box office appeal of Binnie Hale caused the management to stage extra matinees to cope with demand in the first few months, but business dropped away considerably after Christmas, and the show was withdrawn in the middle of February.



Guy Middleton

DAPHNE

London run: King's Hammersmith, November 17th (One week)

Music: H. Baynton Power

Lyrics: Olive Turner & E. Maxwell Farrer

Book: Myles Clifton

Director: William J. Wilson

Choreographer: Edward Royce

Musical Director: H. Baynton Power

Cast: Margaret Campbell (*Daphne Frear*), Cecil Wayne (*Frank Heatherleigh*), Raymond Langley (*Geoffrey Ogden*), Myles Clifton (*Lord Ranelagh*), Cecile Maule-Cole (*Peggy Pastille*), Peggy Butcher (*Lady Mabel*), Eva Brickwell (*Mrs Goshawk*), Eric le Fre (*Timothy Goshawk*), Jeanette Lewthwaite (*Diana*), Guy Middleton (*Charlie Plunket*)

Story: Daphne Frear and young Squire Frank Heatherleigh, one time childhood sweethearts, meet again some years later and realise they still love each other. He is back from a wild time in London and she is about to go there to begin a

career in musical comedy. Frank would like her to stay, but he is deeply in debt to Geoffrey Ogden - the very man who is employing Daphne, so he cannot really object. Meantime the flirtatious Lord Ranelagh, suspected of a liaison with Peggy Pastille, covers his tracks with a series of preposterous lies to his wife Lady Mabel, to Mrs Goshawk, his dragon of a mother-in-law and to Timothy, her silly ass son. Finally news comes in that a rich coal seam has been discovered on Frank's land - so he can pay off his debts, and all the right couples can end up with each other.

Notes: This show had undertaken a six week tour in June /July and had then been re-cast and revised for a second tour opening in November, with the hope of securing a West End date. However, the closest it came was Hammersmith and Wimbledon and after a nine week tour it closed.



Photo by Sasha

EVER GREEN

London run: Adelphi, December 3rd (254 performances)

Music: Richard Rodgers

Lyrics: Lorenz Hart

Book: Benn W. Levy

Director: Frank Collins

Choreographer: Buddy Bradley & Billy Pierce

Musical Director: Richard Crea

Producer: C.B. Cochran

Cast: Jessie Matthews (*Harriet Green*), Sonnie Hale (*Tommy Thompson*), Joyce Barbour (*Mary Tucket*), Jean Cadell (*Mrs Platter*), Albert Burdon (*Eric Merrivale*), Kay Hammond (*Dolly*)

Songs: Dear Dear, No Place But Home, In the Cool of the Evening, Dancing on the Ceiling, If I Give in to You, Harlemania, Doing a Little Clog Dance, Nobody Looks at the Man, Waiting for the Leaves to Fall, The Lion King, The Colour of Her Eyes, Hot Blues.



Story: Harriet Green, a music hall star of the Edwardian age, gave birth, out of wedlock, to a daughter and fled to South Africa to raise her daughter away from the spotlight. The years pass, and now her daughter, Harriet Hawkes, returns to London to try to enter show-business. A publicity man, Tommy Thompson, sees that young Harriet is a dead ringer for her famous mother and convinces a theatre producer to star her in a new revue, claiming she is the original Harriet, actually sixty years old, but miraculously preserved by cosmetics. The public believes the ruse, but also believes that Tommy is her son. This leads to complications, because Harriet and Tommy fall in love. However, her career takes off, with engagements at the Albert Hall, the Neuilly Fair and the Casino de Folies in Paris, and even a religious festival in Spain. Eventually she is forced to admit her deception, but she is forgiven by her adoring public and ends up happily married to Tommy.

Notes: This was Jessie Matthews' fourth musical opposite Sonnie Hale, and it proved to be her greatest success, with the "Dancing on the Ceiling" number being the outstanding hit of the show. The show was turned into the film "Evergreen" (one word) in 1934, with Jessie Matthews and Sonnie Hale in their original roles, though the story was altered and new songs added.



Carl Brisson & Dorothy Dickson

WONDER BAR

London run: Savoy, December 5th (210 performances)

Music: Robert Katscher

Book & Lyrics: Geza Herczeg & Karl Farkas

English Book & Lyrics: Rowland Leigh

Director: Julius B. Salter & Henry Kendall

Choreographer: Fred Lord, Till Brisson & Hilda Beck

Musical Director: Arthur Rosebery

Producer: Andre Charlot

Cast: Dorothy Dickson (*Liane*), Cecil Parker (*Erbach*), Carl Brisson (*Harry*), Joseph Greenwald (*Sam Wonder*), Elsie Randolph (*Inez*), Norah Blaney, Gwen Farrar & Giovanni (*Cabaret turns*)

Songs: Elizabeth, Valse amoureuse, Tell Me I'm Forgiven, I'll Believe in You, Who's to Blame, Alone in a Crowd, The Dying Flamingo, If I Had a Voice Like You

Story: Liane is married to a banker named Erbach, but Harry, an Austrian gigolo and star dancer at Sam Wonder's Cabaret Club, would like to make her one of his many conquests. Without her husband knowing, Harry persuades Liane to become his professional dancing partner, and at the same time ditches his existing partner, Inez. The story then involves a real emerald necklace and its imitation copy acquired from Liane by Harry, who then sold it to Wonder, who resells it back to Erbach. And then the jealous Inez tricks Erbach into attending the cabaret so that she can reveal his wife's secret cabaret career. However, Erbach forgives Liane and silences the gigolo as being a jewel thief.

Notes: The stage and stalls area were re-configured to approximate a cabaret club in an attempt to re-create the great success of this show in Vienna, Berlin and Munich. The story was interspersed with speciality acts and dances. It had enough novelty value to keep it running for over two hundred performances.

THE MAID OF THE MOUNTAINS (2nd Revival)

London run: London Hippodrome, December 18th (57 performances)



Jose Collins—the original Teresa—1917

THE MAID OF THE MOUNTAINS (2nd Revival)

London run: London Hippodrome, December 18th (57 performances)

Music: Harold Fraser-Simpson & James W. Tate

Lyrics: Harry Graham, F. Clifford Harris & Arthur Valentine

Book: Frederick Lonsdale

Director: Herbert Clayton & Robert MacDonald

Cast: Anne Croft (*Teresa*), Bertram Wallis (*Baldassarre*), Bruce Carfax (*Beppo*), Jerry Verno (*Antonio*), Billie Hill (*Vittoria*), Mark Lester (*General Malona*)

Songs: Live for Today, My Life is Love, Love Will Find a Way, A Paradise for Two, A Bachelor Gay, Dividing the Spoils, Friends Have To Part, Husbands and Wives, Good People Gather Round, When You're In Love, Over There and Over Here, Friendship and Love.

Story: In a bandits' mountain camp, the bandit maid Teresa loves the bandit chief, Baldassaré, a man feared throughout the land. Their hiding place is surrounded, and Baldassaré forces Teresa to leave for her own safety. But she is captured by the outgoing local Governor, General Malona, who promises to release her if Baldassaré is captured. Teresa refuses, as "there is honour among thieves."

Meanwhile, Baldassaré and his men have kidnapped the incoming Governor, Count Orsino, and, disguised as soldiers, they are off to rescue Teresa. Baldassaré pretends to be the new governor and meets and falls in love with Angela, Malona's daughter. Teresa, mad with jealousy because of Baldassaré's love for Angela, exposes the new "governor" as Baldassaré, and he and his companions are imprisoned on Devil's Island. Later, a regretful Teresa pleads for his release, and a regretful Baldassaré realises that Angela was just a passing infatuation, and that he really loves Teresa. With the help of the prison governor they escape by boat and all ends happily.

Notes: The original production at Daly's opened on February 10th 1917 and ran for an astonishing 1,352 performances. Next to "Chu Chin Chow" it was the biggest hit of the War Years and made a star of José Collins. A Broadway production opened in September 1918 and, incredibly, closed after just 37 performances! No show of the time emphasised more the difference between British and American audiences. The show was revived in London in 1921 again with José Collins in the lead. A film version was made in 1932 with Nancy Brown and Harry Welchman.

Original London run: Daly's, February 1917

First revival: Daly's December, 1921



*José Collins
as Teresa*

THE SONG OF THE DRUM

London run: Theatre Royal Drury Lane, January 9th (131 performances)

Music: Vivian Ellis & Herman Finck

Lyrics: Desmond Carter

Book: Fred Thompson & Guy Bolton

Director: Felix Edwardes

Choreographer: Ralph Reader

Musical Director: Herman Finck

Cast: Derek Oldham (*Captain Darrell*),

Helen Gilliland (*Sheila McKenna*),

George Bishop (*Colonel McKenna*),

Brian Gilmour (*Major Bonnington*),

Marie Burke (*Olga von Haulstein*),

Allan Jeaves (*The Ilkhani of Kahlek*),

Clarice Hardwicks (*Judy McKenna*),

Bobby Howes (*Chips Wilcox*),

Peter Haddon (*Goofy Topham*)

Songs: I Must Leave My Home, I Knew What I Wanted, Sheila, You Looked at Me, Come to my Wedding, Song of the Drum, Within My Heart

Story: Captain Darrell is in love with Sheila, daughter of Colonel McKenna, but his honour has been impugned and he has lost both girl and reputation, following the machinations of Major Bonnington, a rival for the hand of Sheila. Darrell's fight to regain both girl and honour leads him to a brave and dangerous act of espionage amongst the ranks of the enemy army in the adjoining country. He must feed wrong intelligence to Countess Olga von Haulstein, a rival spy, and double-bluff the Ilkhani of Kahlek, another with his wicked eye on Sheila. A secondary love story involves Sheila's sister, Judy, and Chips Wilcox

Notes: This was a lavish, magnificent production, carefully NOT set in India to satisfy the Censor and contemporary politics, but certainly with a lavish bazaar scene, beggars, donkeys, goats and a real camel, plus a large chorus of dancing harem girls and marching British soldiers. With comic sub-plots, stirring marches, a sensational acrobatic dance act featuring the Helen Howell Foursome together with magnificent scenery and a cast of 125, it was surprising that it only managed a four month run.



Cicely Courtneidge

TANTIVY TOWERS

London run: Lyric Hammersmith, January 16th

Transfer: New Theatre, April 6th (170 performances)



Dennis Arundell

TANTIVY TOWERS

London run: Lyric Hammersmith, January 16th
 Transfer: New Theatre, April 6th (170 performances)

Music: Thomas F. Dunhill

Book & Lyrics: A.P. Herbert

Director: Nigel Playfair

Choreographer: Laura Wilson

Musical Director: Claud Powell

Producer: Nigel Playfair

Cast: Olive Evers (*Jenny Jay*), Trefor Jones (*Hugh Heather*), Dennis Arundell (*Viscount Harkaway*), Barbara Pett-Fraser (*Lady Ann Gallop*), Roy Russell (*Earl of Tantivy*), Doris Woodall (*Countess of Tantivy*), Harvey Braban (*Captain Bareback*)

Songs: Chelsea Home of Culture, As My Poor Father Used to Say, All the Valley Sleeping, Orpheus and Hercules, There are some Things which are not Done, Scorn not the rich Impetuous Boy

Story: Chelsea Bohemians Jenny Jay and her friend Hugh Heather are visited by Charles, Viscount Harkaway and his sister Lady Ann Gallop and their parents, the curious Earl and Countess of Tantivy, intrigued at the great differences between their life at Tantivy Towers and this “modern” Chelsea style. Jenny and Hugh are invited for a weekend in the country. She accepts, but he pompously refuses, but, secretly attracted to Lady Ann, he decides to go after all, but disguised as a hired singer. In the country he finds he has a rival in the form of Captain Bareback, the Master of the Hounds, and because of his conscientious objection to joining the next day’s hunt, Bareback seems to have the upper hand. When Hugh commits the faux-pas of shooting the fox to put it out of its misery, and thus depriving the hounds of their kill, he loses all chances with Ann. She will marry Bareback and he will return to Chelsea and join the Savage Club.

Notes: It premiered on January 16th 1931 at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, and later transferred to the New Theatre, running altogether for just under six months. It was later staged in Australia and America. Unusually, it has no prose speech; all speech is written in verse and intended to be sung. This was a much praised, witty and satirical piece – with A.P. Herbert’s lyrics being compared to W.S. Gilbert’s – and it has maintained its reputation as being one of the more interesting musicals from the 1930s era.

BLUE ROSES

London run: Gaiety, January 20th (54 performances)

Music: Vivian Ellis

Lyrics: Desmond Carter

Book: Desmond Carter & Caswell Garth

Director: Harry B. Burcher

Choreographer: Frederick Lord

Musical Director: George Myddleton

Producer: Laddie Cliff

Cast: George Clarke (*Chepstow Potts*), Roy Royston (*Jimmy Mallows*), Jean Colin (*Susan Winslow*), Vera Bryer (*Ann Winslow*), Arthur Finn (*Otis van Tuyt*), Kenneth Kove (*Egbert Parkinson*)

Songs: Dancing in Your Sleep, Where Have You Been Hiding?, My Heart is a Compass, I Saw the Moon Through a Window, If I Had Three Wishes.

Story: Chepstow Potts, the monocled fashionable man about town, is searching far and wide for the stolen Blue Roses flowers. In this search, aided by his pal, Jimmy, he manages to woo and win Susan, and Jimmy manages to win Susan’s sister, Ann – but only after Chester has disguised himself as a detective, a French shop assistant, and a ship’s steward all for the purposes of defeating the villainous American, Otis Van Tuyt. Of course, he did need some professional help, which came in the shape of a real detective, Egbert Parkinson.

Notes: With gimmicks like the speciality acrobatic act of Peggy, Moro and Delso, and a chorus dancing with light-up shoes, one review claimed “The brains of this musical comedy seem to be in the feet of the performers rather than in the perfunctory adventures. . .” of the cast. It had a very short run of just 54 performances.





Ursula Jeans

KONG

London run: Cambridge Theatre, February 5th (20 performances)

Music & Lyrics: Harold Kingley & H. Baynton Power

Director: Oscar Ashe & Lily Brayton

Choreographer: Espinosa

Musical Director: Arthur Wood

Producer: B.A.Meyer

Cast: Godfrey Tearle (*Kong*), Oscar Ashe (*Chung-Chang*), Ursula Jeans (*Yung-Sa/Ker-A*), Ronald Kwong (*Chung-King*), Geoffrey Davies (*Schwo-U*), Dorothy Black (*La Maunda*)

Songs: Song the Rice Field, Javanese Mouse, City of Gold, Moonlight But No Moon for Me,

Story: This was a wildly over-the-top story of Kong, a wrestler at the Court of Chung-Chang, who professed his love for the Emperor's wife, Yung-Sa. As a result he was tortured, maimed and imprisoned, but managed to escape and, disguised as a pirate, was out to seek revenge. Because the elderly Emperor had been succeeded by his son, Chung-King, Kong captures the new Emperor's bride-to-be, Ker-A, and plans to make her the wife of Kong's own son, Schwo-U. Ker-A, in cahoots with La Maunda,

a kind of Oriental Mata Hari, schemes to murder Kong and his son.

Notes: Dramatic crowd scenes of mandarins, coolies, pirates, peasants and soldiers, swashbuckling galore and veil dances, Javanese dances – all this was an attempt to re-create another "Chu-Chin Chow". It had obviously cost an absolute fortune to stage – and it was taken off after just two weeks.

THE GAY PRINCESS

London run: Kingsway, February 12th (12 performances)

Music: Robert Katscher

Book & Lyrics: Siegfried Geyer

English Book: Harold Simpson

English lyrics: A.P. Herbert

Director: Gordon Harbord

Musical Director: Paul Belinfante

Cast: O.B. Clarence (*King*), Helen Haye (*Queen*), Luli Hohenberg (*Princess*), Harold French (*Henry*), Ronald Frankau (*John*), A.Scott Gatty (*Count Saccardi*), Hilda Esty-Marsh (*Manageress*)

Songs: When Love Comes, Stealing Love, Do You Remember?, The Magic of Jazz, Give Me a Simple Tune, Buy Your Records from Viola.

Story: The impoverished King and Queen of an unnamed European state are forced to abdicate and sell the palace for a jam factory. Their daughter, Princess Viola, now thrown to her own devices, flirts, sings and dances her way through a series of adventures which involve Henry Brown, a real Duke masquerading as an imposter, an accusation of being involved in stealing diamonds in association with John Bartling, a professional crook, problems with Count Saccardi, and with the Manageress of a gramophone record shop.

Notes: Despite established comic performers and a leading lady imported from Vienna, the flimsy story and insubstantial production gave this show no more than a two week run.



Luli Hohenberg



Francis Lederer

MY SISTER AND I

London run: Shaftesbury, February 23rd (8 performances)

Music: Ralph Benatzky

Original Book & Lyrics: Berr & Verneuil

English Lyrics: Desmond Carter & Frank Eyton

English book: Laurie Wylie, Brandon Fleming & H.W. Gribble

Additional songs: Billy Mayerl

Director: George Grossmith

Choreographer: Max Rivers

Musical Director: K. Ernest Irving

Cast: Alexa Engstrom (*Dorine/Princesse*), Francis Lederer (*René Fleuriot*), Leo Sheffield (*President*), Joe Coyne (*Filosel*), Marie Dayne (*Irma*), George Grossmith (*Marquis de Chatelard*)

Songs: My Lucky Day, We Have Made a Mistake, Love Has Faded Away, Five Thousand Francs, The Devil May Care, Birds in the Spring

Story: The story opens in a Divorce Court, where the President is hearing of the breakdown of a marriage between Professor René Fleuriot and the Princess de St Laverne. The show tells in flashback how they met when René was employed to work in the Palace Library, how they fell in love, and how marriage was out of the question because of their difference in rank. However, the Princess disguised herself as Dorine, her (pretended) twin sister, employed as a salesgirl in M. Filosel's shoe shop. René was happily married to a shop-girl, but is not happy married to a Princess. The story involves a lot of misunderstandings and comic sub-plots, but ends with the President advising the foolishly quarrelling couple to make up their really imaginary differences.

Notes: This was adapted from Benatzky's "Meine Schwester und Ich" based on a French play "Ma soeur et moi" by Georges Berr and Louis Verneuil. It was premiered in Berlin in March 1930 where it was seen by J.J. Shubert who immediately booked it for an American production which opened in December 1930 and ran for 167 performances. The English version was a flop and lasted just one week. Strangely enough, it is one of the few German operettas of this period which are still revived and popular in Germany today though completely forgotten and ignored in England.

STAND UP AND SING

London run: London Hippodrome, March 5th (325 performances)

Music: Philip Charig & Vivian Ellis

Lyrics: Douglas Furber

Book: Douglas Furber & Jack Buchanan

Director: Jack Buchanan

Choreographer: Jack Buchanan & John Boyle

Musical Director: Harry Perritt

Cast: Jack Buchanan (*Rockingham Smith*), Elsie Randolph (*Ena*), Anna Neagle (*Mary Clyde Burkin*), Roma Beaumont, Peggy Rawlings, Richard Dolman, Richard Murdoch, Anton Dolin,

Songs: There's Always Tomorrow, Fancy Our Meeting, It's Not You, The One I'm Looking For, Burgundy, Rake it or Leave It, Mercantile Marine, Cairo

Story: Rockingham Smith, a bit of lazy chap, is persuaded to take a job as a valet in the Clyde-Burkin household, where he meets and falls for Ena, ladies' maid to Mary Clyde-Burkin. There has been a theft of some terribly important papers for this mansion, and it appears they are now in Egypt. The family and staff board a liner for Egypt, and once there, Rockingham and Ena undergo a series of adventures which finally recover the documents.

Notes: The scenes included an English Country House, on board a ship, an Egyptian garden, and an elegant London hotel lounge, and the action included a ballet sequence with Anton Dolin and an acrobatic speciality from the Seven Hindustanis. When the plot had been nicely dealt with, Elsie Randolph and ensemble finished the show with a completely extraneous top-hat, tails and tap-dance routine. This was the first featured role for newcomer Anna Neagle and among the smaller roles was the young comedian Richard Murdoch



Elsie Randolph & Jack Buchanan

THE REBEL PRINCESS

London run: Lewisham Hippodrome, March 9th (One week)

Music: David Hendries & Louis Goetz

Book & Lyrics: John Sayes & George Murray

Director: P. J. Reynolds

Choreographer: Fred Dixon

Musical Director: Sidney Firman

Cast: Hildebrand (*Clarice Mayne*), Alec Fraser (*Prince René*), Noel Dainton (*Prince Carl*), Nina Doria (*Pepita*), Eric Le Fre (*Brass Graggleigh*), Charles Austin (*General Massary*)

Songs: Lovers on Parade, Two Bright Young People, Far From Your Arms,

Notes: With Variety and Music Hall stars Charles Austin and Clarice Mayne topping the bill, this was intended for a London run to be followed by a Moss Empire tour. The very thin story tells of Prince René, the rightful heir of oil-rich Sardinovia, who is threatened by a revolution headed by rival Prince Carl. René returns inconnito, joins a band of supporters led by Pepita, and naturally falls in love with her. His friend Brass Graggleigh and revolutionary lass Hildebrand manage to inject a great deal of comic business into the story before things are sorted out politically and romantically in the appropriate manner. The show played a week in Cardiff and then a week at Lewisham but failed to find any backers for the West End. After another two touring weeks it came off.



Clarice Mayne



Huntley Wright

LES CLOCHES DE CORNEVILLE (4th Revival)

London run: Prince Edward, March 16th (16 performances)

Music: Robert Planquette

Book & Lyrics: H.B. Farnie & R. Reece

Director: Edwin Bryan & Edward Marris

Cast: Huntley Wright (*Gaspard*), Marjorie Gordon (*Germaine*), Arthur Lucas (*Jean Grenicheux*), Helen Debroy-Somers (*Serpolette*), Donald Mather (*Henri, Marquis de Corneville*)

Songs: Legend of the Bells, With joy my heart has often bounded, Tell me, girl, what may be your name?, I've been around the world three times, Song of the Beggars, The Cider Song, Go Little Cabin Boy

Story: Miserly old Gaspard insists his niece Germaine must marry an elderly sheriff, but Germaine feels obliged to marry Jean Grenicheux, a young fisherman who claims he once rescued her from drowning. The household

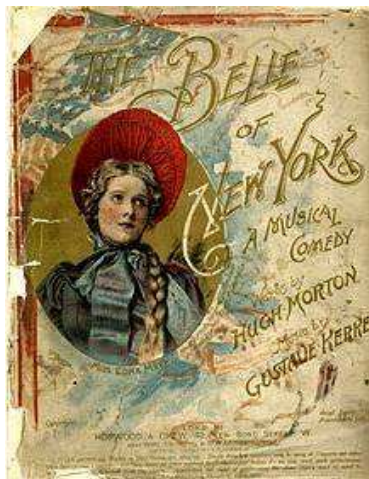
includes Gaspard's maid, Serpolette, who as a child was found abandoned in a field, and she is in love with Jean. A stranger named Henri arrives and goes to look at the castle, claimed to be haunted and with bells that will only ring again when the rightful master returns. Henri really is the right master, he's the Marquis de Corneville returned from exile to claim his castle and estate. In his childhood he remember how he rescued a young girl who fell into the sea.

In the castle Henri discovers papers stating that the endangered infant Vicomtesse de Lucenay was entrusted to Gaspard to be brought up under a false name. Everyone thinks this must refer to Serpolette. Henri and Germaine fall in love, but she rejects his offer of marriage, since a simple farmer's niece cannot marry a Marquis. By the end of the story the truth is out: Jean confesses his deception, Henri proves that Germaine is really the Vicomtesse of Lucenay, and therefore can marry a Marquis, Serpolette is really a gypsy orphan and therefore can marry Jean, Gaspard is forgiven, and all ends happily as the Bells of Corneville ring out.

Notes: First performed in Paris in 1877, an English version by Farnie and Reece was produced at the Folly theatre on February 28th, 1878 (transferring to the Globe Theatre in August) and then running for a previously unknown record number of 705 performances. It then proceeded to tour the provinces almost continually to the end of the century and beyond. This West End revival played two weeks in London and then began yet another provincial tour.

Original London run: Folly Theatre/ Globe, February 1878

First revival: 1880; Second Revival: Lyceum, June 1914; Third revival: Lyceum, May 1919



THE BELLE OF NEW YORK (3rd Revival)

London run: Daly's April 2nd (Limited 8 week season)

Transfer: Winter Garden, June 2nd—20th

Music: Gustav Kerker

Book & Lyrics: Hugh Morton (C.M. McLellan)

Director: Frederick C. Lloyd

Musical Director: Leonard Hornsey

Producer: J. Bannister Howard

Cast: Kathleen Burgis (*Violet Gray*), Patrick Wadington (*Harry Bronson*), Bert Byrne (*Ichabod Bronson*), Norman Page (*Karl von Pumpernick*), Johnny Schofield (*Blinky Bill*), Dorothy Ward (*Cora Angelique*), Griffith Moss (*Doc Snifkins*)

Songs: Reach Me How to Kiss, They All Follow Me, She is the Belle of New York, The Purity Brigade, La Belle Parisienne, On the Beach at Narragansett, My Little Baby

Story: Harry Bronson, a rich American playboy, ends his all-night bachelor party just in time for his wedding to Cora Angelique, the star of New York's comic opera. However, Harry's father, Ichabod, is furious about his son marrying an actress, and he stops the wedding, announcing that Harry will not inherit any of the family wealth. When an unhappy Harry and his father are on a visit to Chinatown they meet virtuous Violet Gray, a young Salvation Army girl. Ichabod announces that all the family fortune will now be left to Violet instead of Harry. But Harry and Violet genuinely fall in love – so Violet purposely shocks Ichabod by singing a naughty French song at a party, thereby assuring that the inheritance once more reverts to Harry.

Notes: Following its 56 performance run in New York in September 1897, this became the first Broadway musical to have a long and successful London transfer. It opened at the Shaftesbury Theatre in April 1898 and ran for 697 performances – making a star out of Edna May, the first American performer to become the toast of the West End. This was the show's third revival in London, and was part of a series of revivals of old musicals, intended to run 6 or 8 weeks at Daly's and then go on prolonged provincial tours. This was followed by "The Geisha", but due to popular demand the "Belle of New York" transferred to the Winter Garden.

Original London run : Shaftesbury Theatre, April 1898

First Revival: Lyceum, June 1914; Second revival: Lyceum, May 1919

WHITE HORSE INN

London run: Coliseum, April 8th (651 performances)



WHITE HORSE INN

London run: Coliseum, April 8th (651 performances)
Music: Ralph Benatzky, Robert Stolz & Bruno Granichstädten
Original Book & Lyrics: Blumenthal, Kadelburg & Mueller
English Book & Lyrics: Harry Graham
Director: Erik Charell

Cast: Lea Seidl (*Josepha*), Clifford Mollison (*Leopold*),
 Bruce Carfax (*Dr Sutton*), Jack Barty (*John Ginkle*),
 Mary Lawson (*Gretl*), George Gee (*Sigismund*), Rita Page (*Ottoline*),
 Frederick Leister (*Emperor*)

Songs: *By Robert Stolz:* Your Eyes Have Brought a Deeper Blue, My Love Song is a Waltz Refrain; *By Ralph Benatzky:* At the White Horse Inn

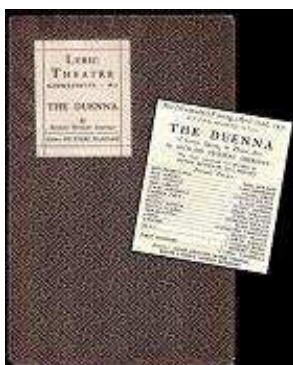
Story: Josepha is the young owner of the White Horse Inn on Lake Wolfgang in the Austrian Salzkammergut. She is being courted by her head waiter, Leopold, but she is wary of all men, fearing they are after her money. One exception is the lawyer, Dr Sutton, due on his annual holiday, and she hopes this time he might propose. Sutton arrives and is surprised to meet not only Sigismund, the son of his friend and client, but also John Ginkle and his daughter, Ottoline.

Because Sigismund's father and Ginkle are sworn enemies, the situation is uncomfortable. This is made worse when Ginkle announces he hopes to arrange a marriage between Sigismund and Ottoline, and thus turn business rivalry into a family merger. But Dr Sutton falls in love with Ottoline, Sigismund falls in love with the visiting Gretel, and poor Leopold decides he has had enough and quits his job. Josepha realises that she really loved Leopold all along, and persuades him to stay—not just as an employee but also as boss. The show ends with a triple marriage.

Notes: The original play was by Oscar Blumenthal and Gustav Kadelburg, and used the actual Gasthof Weißes Rößl (The White Horse Inn) in St Wolfgang as the location for their comedy. It was premiered with great success in Berlin in 1897. The musical version opened in November 1930 – also in Berlin – and was immediately adapted for a London production, where it was a great hit. (Many of the original German names were changed for the English version). This was an enormous production, with over 160 people onstage, three orchestras, yodellers, dancers, horses, dogs, goats and a real rainstorm. The whole thing cost around £50,000 – the largest amount ever spent on a show to date. Within the first 24 hours advance bookings recouped the entire production cost. The show played twice-daily and was continually sold out. Its success was repeated on Broadway and in several film versions, and, in many ways just like “The Sound of Music” has helped create a tourist image of Austria as an alpine idyll. The real White Horse Inn (opened in 1878) remains a major tourist attraction to this day.



Frederick Leister, Lea Seidl
& Clifford Mollison



THE DUENNA (Revival)

London run: Lyric, Hammersmith, April 22nd (21 performances)
Music: Alfred Reynolds (after Linley)
Book & Lyrics: R.B. Sheridan
Director: Nigel Playfair

Cast: Elsie French (*Duenna*), Leo Sheffield (*Don Jerome*), D. Hay Petrie (*Mendoza*), Phyllis Evans (*Donna Luisa*), Frank Drew (*Don Antonio*), Eric Roland, Stanley Vilven, Scott Russell, Leslie Holland, Margery Hicklin, Kathleen Griffiths, Alexis France.

Story: In Seville, Don Jerome is determined to marry off his young daughter, Donna Luisa, to Isaac Mendoza, an elderly, disagreeable but wealthy Portuguese Jew. Luisa declares her love for another - the penniless young Don Antonio. So, for safety, Don Jerome locks her in her room. However, the Duenna, equally determined to have a rich husband, secretly changes places with Luisa. In true commedia-dell'arte style, the young outwit the old in their search for love and marriage, and the marriages take place inside the proper age ranges.

Notes: This was a revival of Nigel Playfair's 1924 production at the Lyric Hammersmith. The comic opera with music by Thomas Linley, father and son, and the libretto of playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan was first performed in the Covent Garden Theatre on November 21st 1775. It was regularly revived up to 1851, and then fell out of the repertoire. Following the huge success of the revived “Beggar's Opera” Nigel Playfair commissioned this new version for the Lyric Hammersmith in December 1924.



Richard Tauber

THE LAND OF SMILES

London run: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, May 8th (71 performances)

Music: Franz Lehár

Original Book & Lyrics: Ludwig Herzer & Fritz Löhner

English Book & Lyrics: Harry Graham

Director: Felix Edwards

Musical Director: Ernest Irving

Cast: Richard Tauber/Robert Naylor (*Prince Sou Chong*), Renée Bullard (*Lisa*), Hella Kurty (*Princess Mi*), George Vollaire (*Gustav*),

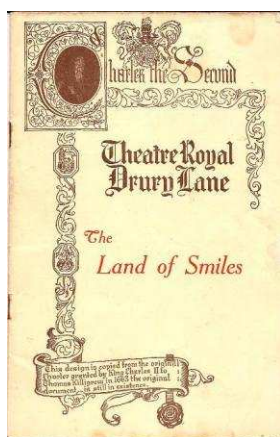
Songs: You Are My Heart's Delight, Love What has given You this Magic Power?, Patiently Smiling, A Cup of Tea with You, Apple Blossoms, The Only Thing I Care About, Friends, Homeland, Beneath the Window of My Love

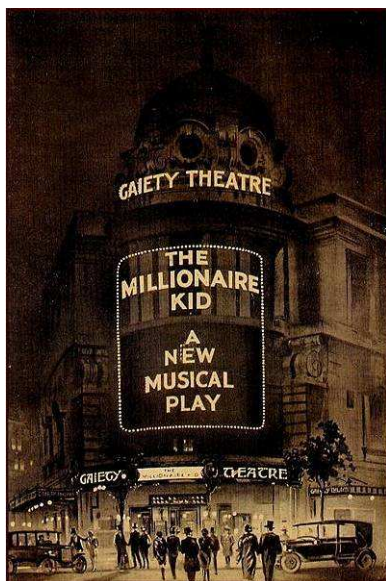
Story: Act I opens in 1912 Vienna, where Lisa, a Countess, marries a Chinese prince and returns with him to his homeland despite the warnings of her friends and family. In Act II, in Beijing, she finds that she is unable to come to terms with his culture, and especially that he must take other wives. He assures her that it's just a formality, but unhappiness is inevitable, and she is locked in the palace. Her love

changes to hate. In Act III, Prince Sou-Chong is left alone, while his beloved Lisa returns to her homeland. His sister, Princess Mi had also become attached to the Viennese official Gustav, and so the ending is doubly sad. But the prince respects the rule of his custom: always smile.

Notes: The first version of this musical was entitled "Die gelbe Jacke" (The Yellow Jacket) and performed in Vienna in 1923, but it flopped. Six years later Franz Lehár later revised it, under the new title "Das Land des Lächelns," and from its first night in Berlin in 1929 it became a world-wide sensation and made an international star out of Richard Tauber. Tauber reprised his role in London (1931) South Africa (1939) and New York (1946), as well as in Vienna in 1930 and in 1938 in Prague and at the Vienna State Opera.

His Drury Lane debut in this role was a sensational event, but he rapidly developed a reputation for being unreliable and missing many performances. He was eventually replaced by Robert Naylor. This caused the London run to end quickly. Back in Vienna he was threatened with permanent replacement by Alfred Piccaver, and he quickly became much more reliable, especially when he was forced to flee the Nazis and become a British citizen. He would become a great favourite with British audiences during the years of the Second World War.





THE MILLIONAIRE KID

London run: Gaiety, May 20th (87 performances)
 Returned: Prince Edward Theatre, December 24th
 (Four week season)

Music: Billy Mayerl

Lyrics: Frank Eyton

Book: Noel Scott

Director: Laddie Cliff

Choreographer: Frederick Lord

Musical Director: Harry Acres

Producer: Laddie Cliff

Cast: Laddie Cliff (*Albert Skinner*), Barry Lupino (*Charlie Bang*),
 Wyn Weaver (*Lord Devenish*), Harry Wotton (*Rev. Devenish*),
 Madge Elliott (*Gloria*), Vera Bryer (*Jane*),
 Cyril Ritchard (*Aubrey Forsyth*), Gilly Flower (*Lucille La Vallier*),
 Violet Farebrother (*Lady Devenish*)

Songs: Life is Meant for Love, A Terrible Lot, Devonshire

Story: Albert “Skinny” Skinner is the possessor of ten million pounds, and accordingly is very eligible for marriage. Two distant impoverished relatives, Lord Devenish and the Rev. Devenish, both have daughters - Gloria and Jane respectively - and with both being “Miss Devenish”, they are clearly destined to be confused with each other. But Gloria is already in love with the Hon. Aubrey Forsyth, and Jane is more interested in her dancing career. Meantime Lord Devenish gets involved in some misunderstandings with a chorus girl, Lucille La Vallier, much to the displeasure of Lady Devenish, and everyone gets mixed up in the usual series of mishaps and brouhaha. Finally Albert’s friend Charlie Bang manages to sort things out, and Albert ends up with Jane.

Notes: Although everything was in place, and the formula well tried and tested, the standard combination of comic duo, acrobatic knockabout and spectacle was now beginning to look a little tired. The show ran just twelve weeks at the Gaiety, but did very well on its subsequent provincial tour, returning to the Prince Edward for the Christmas season.

THE GEISHA (2nd Revival)

London run: Daly’s, June 1st (48 performances)

Repeated: September 14th (2 week fill-in)

Music: Sidney Jones

Lyrics: Harry Greenbank

Book: Owen Hall

Director: Frederick G. Lloyd

Musical Director: Leonard Horney

Cast: Rose Hignell (*Mimosa San*), Donald Mather (*Reginald Fairfax*),
 George Lane (*Wun-Hi*), Lorna Hubbard (*Molly Seamore*),
 Leo Sheffield (*Marquis Imari*), Rita Nugent (*Juliette Diamant*),
 Stephanie Stephens (*Lady Constance Wynne*), Dudley Rolph (*Dick Cunningham*),
 John Newton (*Capt. Katana*)

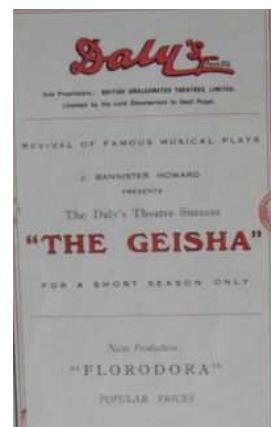
Songs: Chin-Chin-Chinaman, The Toy Monkey, The Amorous Goldfish, The Jewel of Asia, Jack’s the Boy, Chon Kina, Star of My Soul

Story: Molly Seamore, visiting the Teahouse of Ten Thousand Joys, tries on a geisha costume and is mistaken for the real thing. It is only through the efforts of Reginald Fairfax, an officer onboard HMS Turtle, that she is saved from marrying a Japanese marquis.

Notes: Following its premiere at Daly’s in April 1896, the show had a record-breaking run of 760 performances in London, and yet its Broadway production in September 1896 only managed 161 performances.

Original London run: Daly’s September 1896.

First revival: Daly’s, June 1906





Alec Fraser & Sylvia Welling

THE DESERT SONG (1st Revival)

London run: Alhambra, June 8th (Limited 3 week run - 36 performances)

Music: Sigmund Romberg

Book & Lyrics: Oscar Hammerstein II, Otto Harbach & Frank Mandel

Director: Harry Winton

Musical Director: Wilson G. Dibble

Producer: Lee Ephraim

Cast: Alec Fraser (*Pierre Birabeau*), Sylvia Welling (*Margot Bonvalet*), John E. Coyle (*Bennie Kidd*), Ruby Morriss (*Azuri*), Sidney Pointer (*Sid el Kar*), Barry Mackay (*Capt Paul Fontaine*), Nancy Eshelby (*Clementina*), Doreen Key (*Susan*)

Songs: The Desert Song, The Riff Song, Romance, One Alone, One Flower Grows Alone in Your Garden, I Want a Kiss, It, The French Marching Song.

Story: In North Africa the French occupying forces are striving to capture the Red Shadow, who is the leader of the Riffs, an outlaw band of Moroccan tribesmen. The famous renegade is in love with Margot, but she is infatuated with Pierre Birabeau, the handsome son of the French Governor. Margot is captured by the mysterious Red Shadow and eventually falls in love with him, although she does not know his identity – his face is always hidden from her. However, the Red Shadow is himself captured and imprisoned by the governor's soldiers, and only then does Margot discover the Red Shadow is really Pierre in disguise. All ends happily.

Notes: This was a slightly cut-down version of the show to fit into a twice-nightly schedule. The Alhambra was planning a series of limited runs of previous musical hits to be performed as twice-nightly attractions. It ran until June 27th.

Original London run: Drury Lane, 1927

NINA ROSA

London run: Lyceum, July 7th (Six week run)

Music: Sigmund Romberg

Lyrics: Irving Caesar

Book: Otto Harbach

Director: Lee Ephraim

Choreographer: Edward Royce Jr

Musical Director: Maurice Besley

Cast: Robert Chisholm (*Pablo*), Ethelind Terry (*Nina Rose*), Geoffrey Gwyther (*Jack Haines*), Maria Minetti (*Corinna*), Kitty Attfield (*Elinore*), Freddie Forbes (*Jimmy*), Cecil Humphreys (*Don Fernando*).

Songs: Cavalleria, Serenade of Love, Pablo That's Me, Gaucho March, Your Smiles Your Tears, Secret of My Life

Story: In Cuzco, Peru the scheming Pablo, who claims descent from the Incas, is involved in a struggle for the ownership of the Nina Rosa gold mine, named after the heroine and rightful owner. Pablo would like to marry Nina to consolidate his scheme, but Nina will end up with both the mine and a true love in the person of Jack Haines, a young English mining engineer. In the romantic stakes, Corinna, a cabaret dancer, finally marries by mistake Pablo, but that's fine since she has loved him all along, and Jack's sister, Elinore, will marry Jimmy, the mining engineer who "studies curves". Pablo's failed schemes were supported by the semi-villain, Don Fernando, owner of the Café de los Gauchos, which offers cabaret acts featuring speciality castanet dancers and a mannequin parade of costumes from the history of old Peru.

Notes: Lavish, spectacular and exotic, this Romberg show opened on Broadway in September 1930, but it failed to match the success of his earlier works, running for just four months. It also failed to make much impact in London, coming off within six weeks. However, it was a very big success in its Paris production in 1932.



Geoffrey Gwyther & Ethelind Terry

FLORODORA (2nd Revival)

London run: July 29th (52 performances)

Music: Leslie Stuart

Lyrics: E. Boyd-Jones & Paul Rubens

Book: Owen Hall

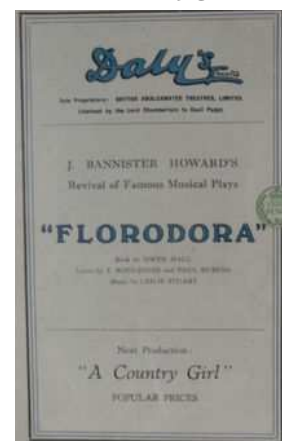
Director: Frederick G. Lloyd

Choreographer: Alison Maclaren

Musical Director: Leonard Hornsey

Producer: J. Bannister Howard

Cast: Charles Stone (*Cyrus Gilfain*), Violet Code (*Dolores*), Geoffrey Davies (*Frank Abercoed*), Lorna Hubbard (*Angela Gilfain*), Dudley Rolph (*Arthur Donegal*), Dorothy Ward (*Lady Holyrood*), George Graves (*Anthony Tweedlepunch*)



Songs: The Silver Star of Love, The Shade of the Palm, Tell Me Pretty Maiden, When I Leave Town, I Want to Be a Military Man, Tact, When You're a Millionaire

Story: Florodora is a South Sea island ruled by wealthy American Cyrus Gilfain, manufacturer of a perfume named after the island. But the island really belongs to Dolores, whose father was cheated by Cyrus. Cyrus would like to marry Dolores (and therefore legalise his grip on the island) but Dolores is in love with Frank Abercoed, Cyrus's manager. Meantime Cyrus's daughter, Angela, is in love with another of Cyrus's employees, Arthur Donegal! Suddenly Frank comes into a fortune, and inherits a title and an estate in Wales. He and Dolores leave the island for Wales, and Cyrus secretly follows them, planning to find a way of stopping their marriage. Cyrus seeks the help of Lady Holyrood in his scheme to prevent the wedding, but their wicked plans are exposed by the private investigator Anthony Tweedlepunch, who also manages to force Cyrus to return Florodora to its proper owner, Dolores. Following this, all the lovers are properly paired off for a happy ending.

Notes: This production was advertised as having "Topical lyrics by Arthur Klein)

Original London production: Lyric Theatre, November 1899

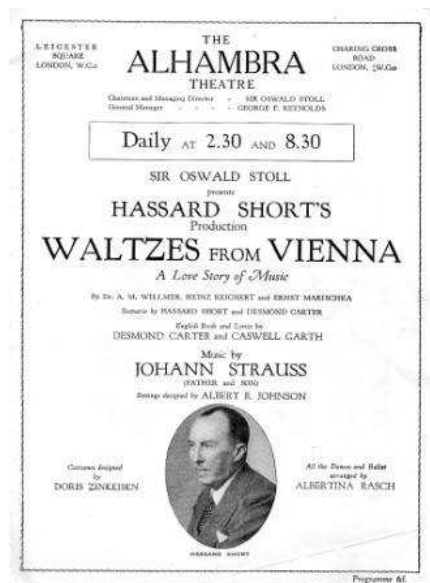
First revival: Lyric Theatre, February 1915 (transferred to Aldwych)

WALTZES FROM VIENNA

London run: Alhambra, August 17th (607 Performances)



Photo by Sasha



WALTZES FROM VIENNA

London run: Alhambra, August 17th (607 Performances)

Music: Johan Strauss I & II

(arranged Erich Wolfgang Korngold & Julius Bittner)

Original book & Lyrics: A.M. Willmer, Heinz Reichert & Ernst Marischka

English Book & Lyrics: Desmond Carter & Caswell Garth

Director: Stanley Bell

Choreographer: Albertina Rasch

Musical Director: Walford Hyden

Producer: Hasard Short & Sir Oswald Stoll

Cast: C.V. France (*Strauss Sr*), Robert Halliday (*Strauss Jr*), Evelyn Herbert (*Resi*), Marie Burke (*Countess Olga*), Tarver Penna (*Doumayer*), Davy Burnaby (*Ebeseder*), Ernest Graham (*Hartkopf*), Clifton Boyne (*Drechsler*)

Songs: Morning, Look Before You Leap, You Are My Songs, Love Will Find You, Like a Star in the Sky, One Hour, We Love You Still, While You Love Me, Love and War, Radetsky Match, The Blue Danube

Story: The story of the tension between the much lauded Johann Strauss the Elder and Johann Strauss Jr, "Schanl", his son, who is determined to succeed his father as the Waltz King of Vienna. There is a star-crossed romance between Schani and Resi Edeseder, the daughter of Hieronymus Ebeseder, an eccentric pastry-cook, which finally comes to fruition thanks to the helpful intrigues of Countess Olga Baranskaja. Other characters include Doumayer, the concert-hall proprietor, and Hartkopf and Drechsler, music publisher and orchestra leader.

Notes: Climaxed of course by the immortal "Blue Danube", this was a feast of music, scenery and dancing that played twice-daily at the Alhambra for the best part of a year and 607 performances. It had originated at the Stadttheater in Vienna in October 1930. It was adapted and re-worked as "The Great Waltz" for New York in September 1934, and was revived in London at Drury Lane in 1970.

VIKTORIA AND HER HUSSAR

London run: Palace Theatre, September 17th (100 performances)

Music: Paul Abraham

Original Book & Lyrics: Alfred Grünwald & Fritz Lohner-Beda

English Book & Lyrics: Harry Graham

Director-Choreographer: Ralph Reader & Alfred Butt

Musical Director: Franz Steininger

Producer: Alfred Butt

Cast: Margaret Carlisle (*Viktoria*), Roy Russell (*Stefan Koltay*), Oskar Denes (*Ferry Hegedus*), Barbara Diu (*Lia San*), Harry Welchman (*John Carling*)

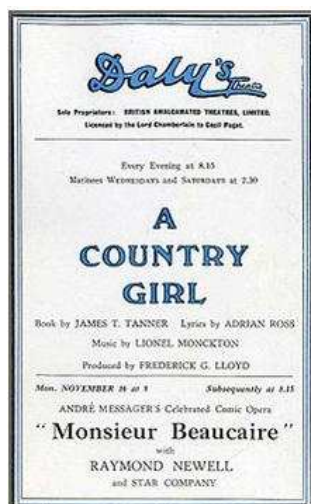
Songs: One Girl Only in the World For Me, Pardon Madame, Land of Song, Do-Do, Star of My Night, Mausie, Following the Drum

Story: Viktoria is an Hungarian countess grieving for Stefan Koltay, her hussar captain, presumed killed in the Great War, but actually a Russian prisoner-of-war in Siberia. She travels to Tokyo where her brother, Count Ferry Hegedus, lives with his Japanese bride, Lia San and there she meets and marries an American diplomat, John Carling. When John Carling unknowingly employs Stefan as a member of the embassy in St Petersburg, Viktoria, Stefan and John all meet. The American, realising his wife's undying love for her hussar, allows Viktoria her freedom.

Notes: The original book and lyrics were adapted from the Hungarian of Emerich Foldes. With a prologue in Siberia, and scenes in Tokyo, St Petersburg and Hungary, this provided foreign colour, exotic locations, a profusion of catchy 1920s dance tunes and a number of romantic love songs. The orchestrations included trombones and saxophones – something not normally heard in operetta scores. It had been a big success in Vienna in 1930, and an even bigger hit in Berlin the following year. It also produced a world-wide hit song and fox-trot, "Mausi, süß warst du heute Nacht". It has been filmed three times, in 1931, 1954 and 1982.



The 1931 Film Poster



A COUNTRY GIRL (2nd Revival)

London run: Daly's September 29th (56 performances)

Music: Lionel Monckton & Paul Rubens

Lyrics: Adrian Ross

Book: James T. Tanner

Director: Frederick G. Lloyd

Choreographer: Alison McLaren

Musical Director: Leonard Hornsey

Producer: J. Bannister Howard

Cast: Roy Mitchell (*Geoffrey Challener*), George Bellamy (*Sir Joseph Verity*), Ann Burgess (*Marjorie*), Dorothy Ward (*Nan*), Cedric Percival (*Douglas*), Stephanie Stephens (*Mrs Raikes*), Lorna Hubbard (*Sophie*), Dudley Rolph (*Barry*), Griffith Moss (*The Rajah of Bhong*), Eva Scott-Thompson (*Princess Melaneh*), Conway Dixon (*Lord Anchester*)

Songs: Two Little Chicks, Try Again Johnny, Molly the Marchioness, Yo Ho Little Girls, Me and Mrs Brown, My Own Little Girl, A Sailor's Life, Boy and Girl

Story: Geoffrey Challoner, short of money, leaves England and his true love Marjorie Hoy (and the village flirt Nan) to seek his fortune overseas. On his return he is accompanied by the Rajah of Bhong and Princess Mehelaneh, who would like to marry Geoffrey, but he turns her down in favour of his little country girl, Marjorie (except that in the intervening years Marjorie has become a famous singing star under a different name). Meantime it turns out the Rajah of Bhong is an Englishman - a Mr Raikes - who ran away to the Far East to escape his wife, and, of course Mrs Raikes turns up; and Geoffrey's friend Barry is forced to disguise himself in drag to get into Lord Anchester's ball for a rendezvous with his sweetheart, Sophie. However, all ends happily, properly paired off, though the Rajah manages to get back to Bhong with his secret intact.

Notes: The musical originally opened at Daly's on January 18th and ran for 729 performances, an extremely long run for the time. It was Lionel Monckton's first score as principal composer. It was recreated in Paris in 1904, and was staged on Broadway in May 1911, but only managed a mere 33 performances.

Original London run: Daly's, January 1902

First Revival: Daly's, October 1914



Evie Greene, the original Nan in the 1902 production & the original poster art-work

FOR THE LOVE OF MIKE

London run: Saville, October 8th (239 performances)

Music: Jack Waller & Joseph Tunbridge

Lyrics: Clifford Grey & Sonny Miller

Book: H.F. Maltby

Director: H.F. Maltby & Campbell Gullan

Choreographer: Fred A. Leslie

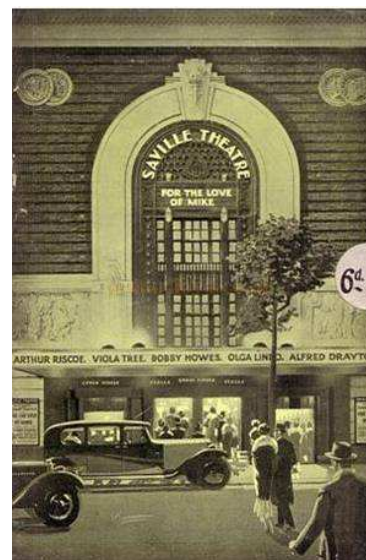
Musical Director: Joseph Tunbridge

Cast: Enid Michaelis (*Peggy Cartwright*), Alfred Drayton (*Richard Miller*), Viola Tree (*Mrs Miller*), Bobby Howes (*Bob Seymour*), Arthur Riscoe (*Conway Paton*), Syd Walker (*P.C. Wildgoose*), Wylie Watson, Betty Astell.

Songs: Got a Date with an Angel, Who Do You Love?, Jails, I Want to Live, The Blue Skies of Regent Street, Walk With Me, (*Interpolated [Weston & Lee]* Wild Oats)

Story: Enid Michaelis (Mike) has been tricked into signing power of attorney to her guardian, the monstrous Richard Miller, and his jumped up, scatty wife. The Millers' secretary, Bob Seymour, is in love with Mike, and offers to break into the living-room safe to recover the document. Little does he know that Richard Miller has employed a private detective, Conway Paton, to keep an eye on his property – and Bob is caught red-handed in front of the open safe. But it turns out that Bob and Paton are old school-mates, and once Paton knows the truth, he sides with Bob. Because they can't get the safe locked again, they stage a fake robbery. Enter P.C. Wildgoose to commence a wild series of farcical incidents ending with the defeat of Miller and his ghastly wife, and general happiness all round.

Notes: This was the very first show to play at the brand new Saville Theatre, and it proved to be a hit, running for 239 performances and then going on a long and profitable provincial tour. A film version was made in 1932 with several of the original cast, directed by Monty Banks (who would later marry Gracie Fields).



MONSIEUR BEUCAIRE (1st Revival)

London run: Daly's, November 16th (Limited season - 4 week run)

Music: André Messager

Book & Lyrics: Frederick Lonsdale

Director: Frederic G. Lloyd

Choreographer: Alison MacLaren

Musical Director: Leonard Hornsey

Producer: J. Bannister Howard

Cast : Raymond Newell (*Monsieur Beaucaire*), Darroll Richards (*Molyneux*), Barbara Pett-Fraser (*Lady Mary*), Eric Fort (*Duke of Winterset*), Betty Eley (*Lucy*), Bruce Anderson (*Captain Badger*)

Songs: Red Rose, Going to the ball, The Beaux and the Belles of Bath, English maids, Lightly lightly, When I was King of Bath, That's a woman's way, Philomel, Honour and love, Say no more, We are not speaking now, Under the moon, A son of France

Story: Monsieur Beaucaire, a barber working in English society, is actually the Duc d'Orléans, son of the King of France, a fact only known to his valet and his friend, Molyneux. Beaucaire is in love with Lady Mary but is in too humble a position to speak to her, whilst Molyneux is in love with Lady Mary's cousin, Lucy. In order to attend Lady Rellerton's ball, Beaucaire and Molyneux pass themselves off as aristocrats, but the evil Duke of Winterset persuades Captain Badger to quarrel with Beaucaire and challenge him to a duel. However, when Beaucaire is the victor, Winterset exposes Beaucaire as a fraud – a barber who has insulted them with his very presence. The courtiers attack Beaucaire, and Lady Mary, believing herself deceived, storms off. But Molyneux and Lucy persuade Mary to hold a secret meeting with Beaucaire, who asks Lady Mary if social position really matters where true love is concerned. Lady Mary agrees that true love conquers all. Suddenly the French Ambassador arrives and everyone is amazed when he kneels before the presumed barber, hailing him the new King of France now that his father has died.

Notes: Based on Booth Tarkington's 1900 novel, the operetta premiered at the Prince's Theatre on April 19th 1919, and transferred to the Palace on July 29th for a successful run of 221 performances. It received its Broadway premiere in December 1919 and ran for 143 performances. It was a great success with many international productions. This revival was part of J. Bannister Howard's series of musical revivals which would be touring all over the country with each of them playing a short limited season in the West End.

HOLD MY HAND

London run: December 23rd Gaiety Theatre (212 performances)

Music: Noel Gay

Lyrics: Desmond Carter

Book: Stanley Lupino

Director: Stanley Lupino

Choreographer: Buddy Bradley

Musical Director: Harry Acres

Cast: Stanley Lupino (*Eddy Marston*), Marjery Wyn (*Helen*), Jessie Matthews (*Paula Bond*), Harry Milton (*Robert*), Sonnie Hale (*Pop Curry*), Connie Emerald (*Jane Howard*), Dora Lupino, Edna Thompson, Doris Rogers, Frank Hector

Songs: The Pied Piper, What's a Little Kiss?, Hold My Hand, Turn on the Music

Story: Rich and eligible Eddy Marston attends a party given by his fiancée Helen, and bumps into Paula Bond, his one-time ward, whom he hasn't seen in years and now finds distinctly appealing. During her long years at convent school she has received regular letters from Eddy, except they were not actually written by him – they were written by his personal assistant, Robert, and Eddy just signed them, mostly without reading them. Before long Helen is the ex-fiancée and is paired up with Pop Curry, a newspaper magnate, whilst Paula will eventually settle down with Robert. Eddy himself will lose all his money, and then get it all back again, and end up happily in the arms of Jane Howard, his secretary.

Notes: With the book making much of the comedians in the cast, and with Jessie Matthews and Sonnie Hale repeating their previously hugely successful partnership in “Ever Green” this was an eagerly anticipated holiday season show. This was the first complete musical score written by Noel Gay – up to now he has been a contributor to other musicals and principal composer for some revues – and he came up with a couple of hit songs. In spite of excellent notices, it ran a little under six months, though a subsequent provincial tour brought in a profit. It was filmed in 1938 with Stanley Lupino, Jack Melford, Polly Ward and Fred Emney.



Jessie Matthews

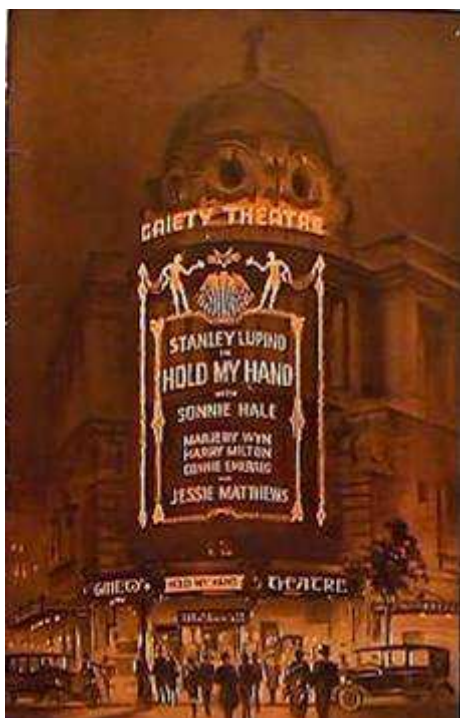


Photo by Stage Photo Co

Stanley Lupino, Sonnie Hale, Marjery Wyn & Jessie Matthews



Mark Lester as
Hilarius

LA POUPEE (3rd Revival)

London run: Daly's, December 24th (Christmas season)

Music: Edmund Audran

Book & Lyrics: Maurice Ordonneau

English version: Arthur Sturges

Director: Frederick G. Lloyd

Choreographer: Alison McLaren

Cast: Patrick Waddington (*Lancelot*), Mark Lester (*Hilarius*),
Mina Greene (*Madame Hilarius*), Mary Saunders (*Henri*),
Conway Dixon (*Baron Chanterelle*), Jean Colin (*Alesia*)

Songs: A Jovial Monk am I, I Love You Very Dearly, It Was a Kiss, She is charming

Story: From the monastery whence the timid and modest novice Lancelot sallies forth in his quest of a doll-bride, on to the workshop of Hilarius with his dull wife and Henri, his clever apprentice, this is a journey of discovery of true love. At the country house of Baron Chanterelle, Lancelot discovers that Alesia is flesh and blood after all.

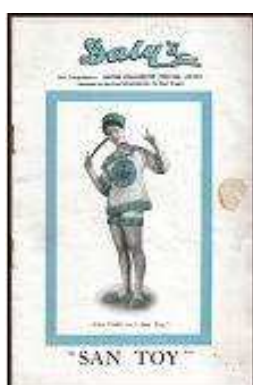
Notes: This story of an automaton owed a great deal to the ballet "Coppelia" and to the Olympia act of Offenbach's "Tales of Hoffman". It premiered at the Paris Gaîté in October 1896 in a very lavish production, but even with its splendid scenes from the era of Louis XV in a monastery, a toy shop and a château, it suffered from an insipid story and managed a run of 121 performances. Surprisingly its London premiere was a great success, opening on February 24th 1897 at the Prince of Wales's Theatre and running for an astonishing 576 performances with Courtice Pounds and Willie Edouin. This revival was part of Frederic Lloyd's season of short London runs of established old favourite musicals which would then proceed to undertake lengthy provincial tours and recover the investment and more.



Jean Colin as
Alesia

Original London run: Prince of Wales, February 1897

First revival: Prince of Wales, December 1898; Second revival: Prince of Wales, 1904

HELEN!**London run:** Adelphi, January 30th (194 performances)**Music:** Jacques Offenbach**Arranged by:** Erich Korngold**Book & Lyrics:** Meilhac & Halevy**English version:** A.P. Herbert**Director:** Max Reinhardt**Choreographer:** Leonide Massine**Musical Director:** Erich Korngold**Producer:** C. B. Cochran**Cast:** Helen (*Evelyn Laye*), George Robey (*Menelaus*), Bruce Carfax (*Paris*), W.H. Berry (*Calchas*), Winifred Davis (*June*), Shirley Dale (*Minerva*), Desiree Ellinger (*Orestes*), Joy Spring (*Pylades*), Hay Petrie (*Mercury*), Roy Russell (*Achilles*), Leslie Jones (*Agamemnon*)**Story:** Helen abandons Menelaus, her dolt of a husband, and goes to live with Paris, Prince of Troy, which leads to the ten year siege of the Trojan capital. During the siege we meet Calchas, the Soothsayer saying the sooth, Menelaus wearing a small bowler hat, Juno and Minerva squabbling over the Golden Apple, Orestes and Pylades wearing tights, an over-worked Mercury muddling his messages, a limping Achilles, a black-bearded Agamemnon., and, of course, a veritable troupe of Mr Cochran's young ladies.**Notes:** This was an updated revision of Offenbach's "La Belle Helene", first performed in Paris in 1864 and in London in 1866. The re-written version was a parody of the original, which was itself a parody of Homer's poem. As such it did not please everyone, with some finding it "too silly for words". However, all agreed it had spectacular scenery and costumes and superb dancing – though some felt it was more a variety show and revue rather than a musical comedy.**SAN TOY (2nd Revival)****London run:** Daly's, February 22nd (32 performances)**Music:** Sidney Jones & Lionel Monckton**Lyrics:** Henry Greenbank & Adrian Ross**Book:** Edward A. Morton**New version:** Peter Greenbank**Director:** Frederick G. Lloyd**Cast:** Harry Hilliard (*Sir Bing Preston*), Leo Sheffield (*Yen How*), Frederick Bentley (*Li*), Rita Page (*Dudley*), Molly Francis (*Ko Fan*), Jean Colin (*San Toy*), Arthur Digney (*Fo Hop*), Donald Mather (*Bobby*), Conway Dixon (*Emperor*), Brenda Clether (*Poppy Preston*)**Songs:** Of Noble Kin is the Mandarin, Oh, My Name is Yen How, Have You Heard there's a Girl in the Moon?, Dear little maid San Toy, Your Marriages here are Certainly Queer, Rhoda Rye was a London lass, Life is a Mouse Trap, From a Country far in the Golden West.**Story:** Sir Bing Preston is British Consul in Pynka Pong, ruled over by the Mandarin, Yen How. The Mandarin's private secretary, Li, flirts with Dudley, Sir Bing's maid, but is really in love with Ko Fan, one of the Emperor's female guards. By law all Chinese girls must serve in the army, but the Mandarin's daughter, San Toy, has been secretly raised as a boy to prevent her having to become a female guard. The young student, Fo Hop, has discovered this secret and is in love with San Toy, but San Toy is secretly in love with Sir Bing's son, Bobby. None of them can ever get married, of course – the laws will not allow it. Suddenly the Emperor in Peking decrees that everyone – boys and girls alike – must join the army, and San Toy's secret is revealed. Everyone moves to Peking where finally Poppy Preston, the Consul's daughter, persuades the Emperor to allow San Toy to marry Bobby, Li to marry Ko Fan, and everything to come to a happy ending.**Notes:** First performed at Daly's Theatre on October 21st 1899, it ran for 768 performances, a huge hit for the time. It opened on Broadway on October 10th 1900, and ran for 65 performances, and following a three month break, re-opened for a run of 103 performances.

Original London production: Daly's October 1899

First revival: Daly's, April 1902

LOVELY LADY

London run: February 25th (3 days)

Music: Jean Gilbert

Book & Lyrics: Hans Zerlett & Robert Gilbert

English version: Arthur Wimperis

Director: F. Reginald Bach

Choreographer: Fred Leslie

Musical Director: Philip Braham

Producer: Edward Laurillard

Cast: Edmund Gwenn (*Emmanuel*), Arthur Margetson (*George*), Dudley Rolph (*Terry*), Barry Lupino (*Arthur*), Polly Walker (*Peggy Carroll*), Clarice Hardwick (*Lucy Tuffin*), Henry Wenman (*Esau Beaver*), Eva Hudson (*Bessie Beaver*).

Songs: London NW9, The Rumba, I Wonder if it's Love, If You Only Knew, Yesterday,

Story: The Letts Brothers – Emanuel and George – are worried by the drop in sales for their cigarette business. Terry Wingate and Arthur Tilbury – an electrician and mechanic working on the premises suggest a sales gimmick: Put a prize coupon in just one packet, offering the winner a lovely bride, a house and £500 in cash and watch the sales rise. The Brothers eagerly go for this plan – but finding a bride could be a problem. Then in walks American Peggy Carroll, come to ask her English “relatives” for financial help for the family back home. Terry suggests she could be the perfect bride, and she even inspires the brand name for the new cigarettes – Lovely Lady. She is accommodated under the chaperonage of Arthur’s girlfriend, Lucy Tuffin, but soon Terry and Peggy fall in love, and both brothers prove susceptible to the charms of Peggy and Lucy. Arthur and Terry get jealous and trouble breaks out. Then a burly sea captain, Esau Beaver arrives, with the winning coupon, intent on claiming his prize. Luckily, a distraught Terry is able to prove that Esau is already married – and can bring a happy and prosperous conclusion for all concerned.

Notes: Jean Gilbert (real name Max Winterfeld) was a prolific composer with some 57 musicals to his credit, and many big successes in Berlin, Hamburg, Vienna. His London hits included “The Girl in the Taxi”, and the long-running successes “The Lady of the Rose”, “Katja” and “Yvonne”. It was therefore a great surprise when this, his penultimate composition, turned out to be an enormous flop. It was considered to be more a farce than a musical, and its small cast and absence of a chorus didn’t help. The show featured the first appearance in England of Polly Walker, a Broadway star of the Ziegfeld Follies. With no advance sales and very poor notices, the show closed the same week. (The lyricist was his son, Robert, who was also a composer.)



Photo by Alfred Cheney Johnston

Polly Walker



Best wishes
Enid Stamp Taylor

PAULETTE

London run: Savoy, March 1st (15 performances)

Music & Lyrics: Harry S. Pepper

Book: Stanley Brightman & Arthur Illingworth

Director: Stanley Brightman

Choreographer: Frederick Lord

Musical Director: Jacques Heuvel

Cast: Paul England (*Jimmie*), Dick Francis (*Tippits*), Enid Stamp Taylor (*Fay*), Mireille Perrey (*Paulette*), Darroll Richards (*Gaston*), Peter Haddon (*Freddie*)

Songs: Why Don't You Laugh?, Let's Play at Pretending, Blue Bird, Don't Tell a Soul Business is Business, Clothes Make the Man

Story: Jimmie Wentworth, already engaged to Fay Manners, and aided by his valet, Tippits, “steals” Paulette from her father’s French village café, and from her prospective husband, Gaston, and takes her aboard his luxury yacht. Heartlessly he persuades his friend Freddie to make a cine-film of how he won Paulette and this film is shown to all the guests on board. Humiliated, and disguised as a cabin boy, Paulette escapes. A year later she is working as manageress of a chocolate shop in Paris and they meet again, only for her to reject him once more. Finally in far-off Vienna he is reconciled to his discarded love.

Notes: After a ten week pre-London tour, the show managed just two weeks in London.



THE CAT AND THE FIDDLE

London run: Palace, March 4th (219 performances)

Music: Jerome Kern

Book & Lyrics: Otto Harbach

Director: William Mollison

Choreographer: Buddy Bradley

Musical Director: Hyam Greenbaum

Producer: Charles B. Cochran

Cast: Francis Lederer (*Victor Florescu*), Peggy Wood (*Shirley Sheridan*), Fred Conyngham (*Alexander Sheridan*), Gina Malo (*Angie Sheridan*), Austin Trevor (*Clement Daudet*), Henri Leoni (*Pompineau*), Martin Walker (*Major Chatterley*), Alice Delysia (*Alice*), Babs Valerie (*Maizie Gripps*)

Songs: The Night Was Made for Love, I Watch the Love Parade, Try to Forget, Poor Pierrot, She Didn't Say Yes, A New Love in Old, One Moment Alone

Story: In the city of Brussels, Victor Florescu, a serious classical composer from Romania, is attracted to Shirley Sheridan, a young lively American jazz composer who has arrived in the city with her brother Alexander and his wife, Angie. Victor is outraged when Clement Daudet, the producer of his somewhat heavy operetta "The Passionate Pilgrim", decides to lighten it up a bit by including some of Shirley's up-tempo jazzy pieces. Other characters include Pompineau, a wandering philosopher, the "silly-ass" Major Chatterley and his problems with his car and with lady-friend Alice, and Maizie Gripps, the Cockney dresser. Eventually, of course, both Victor and Shirley can come together in true harmony.

Notes: Originally staged on Broadway on October 15th 1931, where it ran for 395 performances, it was acclaimed for Jerome Kern's wonderful flow of superb songs, well integrated into the story, and for his extremely skilful use of under-scoring. It was much praised during its London presentation.

MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND (2nd Revival)

London run: Daly's, March 24th (28 performances)

Music & Lyrics: Paul Rubens

Book: Paul Rubens & Austen Hurgon

Director: Frederick G. Lloyd

Cast: Jean Colin (*Sally*), Robert Layton (*Captain Papp*), Harold Kimberley (*Van Vuyt*), Mark Lester (*Mr Hook*), Hal Bryan (*Simon Slinks*), Marie Conan (*Freda Voos*), Jenny Dean (*Mina*), Walter Bird (*Schnapps*), Alison Maclaren (*Gretchen*)

Songs: The Flying Dutchman, Fly Away Kite, The Sleepy Canal, We are little orphans, When the sun is aglow in the west, Ev'ry Dutchman when he wakes, Any time you're passing, Little Miss Wooden Shoes, Love is a carnival, Bottles, A Pink Petty from Peter, English girls when they make love

Story: Sally Hook is being pursued by two gentlemen – the dashing Captain Adrian Papp, and the bandmaster, Van Vuyt. Sally's choice is the bandmaster, much to the chagrin of the Captain. Sally's father owns the distillery which makes the famous liqueur "Cream of the Sky", but one day he carelessly loses the paper containing the precious recipe – and since he cannot remember it, he is now facing financial ruin and the loss of his business. The unsavoury layabout Simon Slinks finds the paper and sells it to Captain Papp, and, naturally, he uses it as a kind of blackmail: the recipe in return for the hand in marriage of Sally. However, when Papp is found flirting with Freda Voos, his true nature is revealed. All ends happily, of course. A sub-plot has Sally's maid, Mina, flirting with the distillery foreman, Schnapps, and when she finds him flirting with Gretchen, he mollifies her by buying her a petticoat from the fair. It turns out this is the fifteenth petticoat she has been given by admirers

Notes: The original production opened at the Prince of Wales Theatre on January 31st 1907 and ran for 462 performances. The New York production opened on December 31st 1907 and ran for 119 performances.

Original London production: Prince of Wales, January 1907

First revival: Prince of Wales, October 1914



Isabel Jay—The original Sally, 1907



The original artwork, 1910

THE CHOCOLATE SOLDIER (2nd Revival)

London run: Shaftesbury, March 31st (20 performances)

Music: Oscar Straus

Book & Lyrics: Leopold Jacobsen & Rudolph Bernauer

English version: Stanislaus Stange

Director: Charles Maynard

Musical Director: K. Ernest Irving

Producer: Anne Croft

Cast: Horace Percival (*Lt. Bumerli*), Anne Croft (*Nadina Popoff*), Sara Allgood (*Aurelia Popoff*), Tom Shale (*Col. Kasimir Popoff*), Sidney Pointer (*Major Alexius Spiridoff*)

Songs: My Hero, Sympathy, Seek the Spy, Alexius the Heroic, Never Was There Such a Lover, The Tale of a Coat, That Would Be Lovely, Falling in Love, The Letter Song.

Story: Lt. Bumerli is a chocolate-eating soldier, more interested in saving himself than performing heroic deeds on the battlefield. He flees from his battle with the Serbs in Bulgaria and creeps into the house of Colonel Popoff, where he falls asleep on the bed of Nadine Popoff. She is in love with the brave and dashing Major Alexius Spiridoff, bold, daring and a bit pompous. Naturally she

falls in love with Bumerli, not realising he is a deserter. Her father is outraged, but eventually comes to agree that love conquers everything.

Notes: Adapted from Bernard Shaw's "Arms and the Man" and first staged in Vienna in 1908, the English version was premiered on Broadway on September 13th 1909 and ran for 296 performances. London followed almost a year later, on September 10th 1910 at the Lyric Theatre, running for 500 performances, no doubt aided by the fuss made by Bernard Shaw. He hated the version, but had signed away the musical rights. He did however insist that the programme carried the words: "With apologies to Mr Bernard Shaw for an unauthorised parody of one of his comedies". Because of his unfortunate experience with this show, Bernard Shaw adamantly refused permission for any other of his works to be turned into musicals – and "My Fair Lady" had to wait until 1956 – six years after Shaw's death. This revival had come into London to fill a few weeks in its long-lasting provincial tour.

Original London production: Lyric, September 1910

First revival: Lyric Theatre, September 1914

THE DUBARRY

London run: His Majesty's, April 14th (397 performances)

Anny Ahlers (1907-1933)

For the London production, the 26 year old German soprano, Anny Ahlers, was imported to sing the leading role following her great success in "Casanova" in Germany. Her fame and beauty was such that the famous artist Philip Alexius de Laszlo painted her portrait. She had a beautiful voice, but her spoken English was poor and she came in for some poor notices from the critics.

However, the public adored her, and once the run of "The Dubarry" was over several new offers were forthcoming. However, in March 1933, she died in controversial circumstances by jumping out her Portland Place flat window in a possible suicide. Her death has been blamed on morphine that she had taken while suffering from tuberculosis and from sleeping pills and alcohol she was taking due to insomnia.

The portrait by Philip Alexius de Laszlo



THE DUBARRY

London run: His Majesty's, April 14th (397 performances)

Music: Carl Millöcker (arranged by Theo Mackeben)

Book & Lyrics: Paul Knepler & J.M. Willemksi

English version: Rowland Leigh & Desmond Carter

Director: Felix Edwardes

Choreographer: (*Ballets*) Anton Dolin; (*Dance Ensembles*) Fred A Leslie

Musical Director: Ernest Irving

Cast: Anny Ahlers (*Jeanne*), Margaret Yarde (*Mme. Labille*), Heddle Nash (*René Lavallery*), Edmund Willard (*Comte Dubarry*), Helen Haye (*Maréchale de France*), Lawrence Anderson (*Louis XV*)

Songs: I Give My Heart, The Night Entices, If I am Dreaming



Story: The young milliner, Jeanne, quarrels with the hat-shop owner, Madame Labille, and, unemployed, has to rely on her poet-lover, René Lavallery, for financial support. However, the Comte Dubarry entices her away from the poet's garret to the Maison Dubarry. Even higher "honours" are on offer, for the Maréchale de France, makes it clear the King is very interested in Jeanne, the "Madame Dubarry", and is willing to pay the Comte's debts for a consideration. The Comte is only too ready to make a deal – it seems there are many pimps and procurers at the court of Louis Quinze - and the upshot of it all is, of course, that Madame Dubarry becomes the uncrowned Queen of France.

Notes: The original operetta premiered in Vienna in 1879 with libretto by F. Zell and Richard Genée, but despite critical approval, it failed with the public. In 1931 Theo Mackeben created a radically new version of the work, with a new text and added music from other works by Millöcker and an interpolation of a ballet by Ravel. (Mackeben was the original conductor of the revolutionary Brecht/Weill "Threepenny Opera"). This new version was first given in Berlin in 1931 and went on to great success throughout Europe. The London production ran for 397 performances. It was criticised for its historical inaccuracy, and for its somewhat sensational scenes of immorality, but the public loved it, and it had a successful run of 397 performances. (It was not so successful on Broadway – even starring Grace Moore it managed just 87 performances)



Dorothy Ward

THE DUCHESS OF DANTZIC (1st Revival)

London run: Daly's, April 26th (31 performances)

Music: Ivan Caryll

Book & Lyrics: Henry Hamilton

Director: Frederick G. Lloyd

Cast: Dorothy Ward (*Catherine*), Frank Cellier (*Napoleon Bonaparte*), Franklyn Tilton (*Lefèbvre*), Walter Bird (*Adhémar*), Nancy Fraser (*Renée*)

Songs: Wine of France, Noblesse Oblige, Love and Ever Love, The Legend Olden, The Milliner Monarch, The Mirror Song, A Real Good Cry

Story: Catherine "Sans-Gêne" a launderess, helps one of her clients, a poor unknown lieutenant named Bonaparte, pay his bills. She and her soldier-husband Lefèbvre, are caring for the child of an aristocrat killed in the Revolution and raising the boy, Adhémar, as their own. Lefèbvre advances in the new regime, but cannot introduce his wife to the court because of her lower-class origins. Napoleon want to divorce the Empress Josephine but is worried about the political reaction. To test the ground he orders Lefèbvre to divorce his lower-class wife and marry Napoleon's ward, Renée. Lefèbvre refuses, and so does Renée, who is in love with Adhémar. When Adhémar criticises Napoleon's tyranny, he is sentenced to death and Napoleon offers a pardon if Catherine and Lefèbvre will agree to divorce. Catherine forces her way into the Palace and reminds Napoleon of the days when he was poor and idealistic. The Emperor relents: Adhémar is pardoned and allowed to marry Renée, and Lefèbvre is created the Duke of Dantzic and he and the newly created Duchess fall into each other's arms.

Notes: This was an adaptation of the 1893 play "Madame Sans-Gêne" by the playwright Victorien Sardou and had been adapted into a musical for this London premiere at the Lyric Theatre on October 17th 1903, where it ran for 236 performances. The Broadway production opened January 14th 1905 for 93 performances. The same story would later be turned into an opera by Umberto Giordano in 1915, and would be filmed several times, notably as a silent film with Gloria Swanson in 1925 and with Sophia Loren in 1962.

Original London run: Lyric, October 1903

CASANOVA

London run: London Coliseum, May 24th (432 performances)

Music: Johan Strauss II (arr. Ralph Benatsky)

Original Book & Lyrics: Hans Muller (after Schanzer & Welisch)

English Book & Lyrics: Harry Graham

Director: Erik Charell

Choreographer: Max Rivers

Producer: Sir Oswald Stoll

Cast: Arthur Fears/Fernando Autor (*Casanova*),

Grete Natzler/Margaret Carlisle (*Barbarina*),

Ben Williams (*Franz von Hohenfels*), Soffi Schonning (*Laura*),

Dorothy Dickson (*Princess Potomska*), Marie Löhr (*Empress Maria Theresa of Austria*),

Oriel Ross (*Empress Catherine of Russia*)

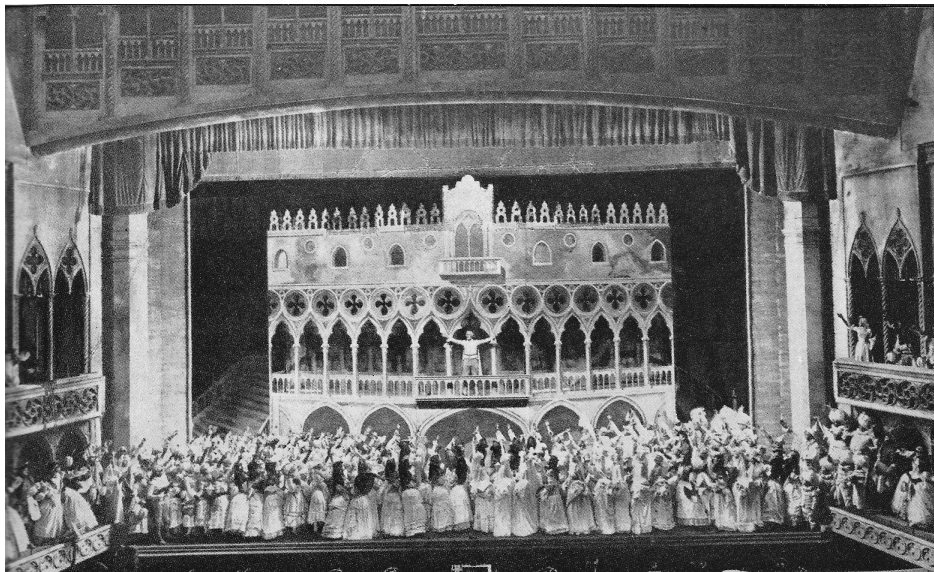
Songs: The Nuns' Chorus

Story: Casanova, attacked by robbers, is saved by Franz von Hohenfels, and, in return, promises to rescue Franz's fiancée Laura from a Spanish convent. This promise takes him all over 18th Century Europe: he gets to woo Barbarina, a gypsy dancer, the Princess Potomska, the Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, the Empress Catherine of Russia and several others before finally succeeding in rescuing Laura.

Notes: Expertly adapted from Johann Strauss II melodies by Ralph Benatsky, the overall aim of the show was an excuse for brilliant scenery – The Vienna State Opera, St Mark's Square, the Carnival in Venice, a Castle in Bohemia, the Palace in St Petersburg, the Rialto in Venice - all making use of the Coliseum's multi-revolving

stages and presenting spectacular ballet scenes and speciality acts, including acrobats and fire-eaters.

Originally staged in Berlin, this London production played twice-daily at the Coliseum for 432 performances. Because of the vocal demands the two principal roles were double-cast, playing alternate days. This was a massive' lavish spectacular undertaking, planned as the perfect follow on for the Coliseum's hugely successful "White Horse Inn".



The original artwork, 1910

Photo by Stage Photo Co

THE LAND OF SMILES (1st Revival)

London run: Dominion, May 31st (3 week season)

Music: Franz Lehár

Original Book & Lyrics: Ludwig Herzer & Fritz Löhner

English Book & Lyrics: Harry Graham

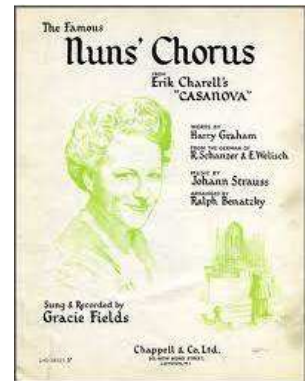
Director: Felix Edwards

Musical Director: Ernest Irving

Cast: Richard Tauber (*Prince Sou Chong*), Josie Fearon (*Lisa*), Hella Kürty (*Princess Mi*), George Bishop, Cyril Gardiner, Patrick Waddington, Fred Maguire, Stanley Vilven

Original London run: Drury Lane, May 1931

This was a three week season as part of a prolonged provincial tour



OUT OF THE BOTTLE

London run: London Hippodrome, June 11th (109 performances)

Music: Vivian Ellis & Oscar Levant

Book & Lyrics: Fred Thompson & Clifford Gray

Director: Julian Wylie

Choreographer: Edward Dolly

Musical Director: Debroy Somers

Cast: Clifford Mollison (*Peter Partridge*), Arthur Riscoe (*Tom Oakland*), Frances Day (*Molly*), Polly Walker (*Sallyann*), Sebastian Smith (*Professor Harper*), Cecil Humphreys (*Fakrash-el-Aamash*), Audrey Pointing (*Beth Churchill*)

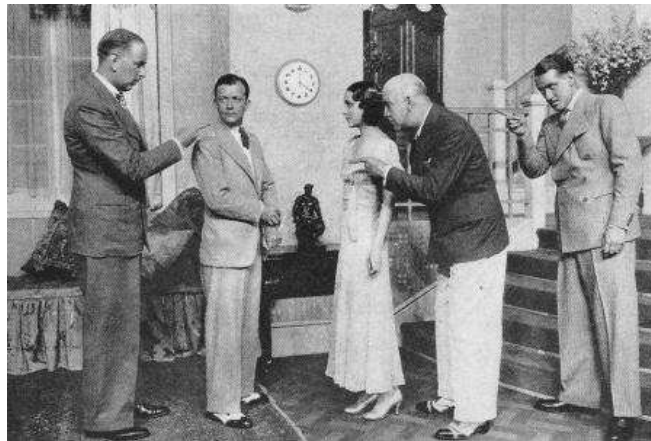
Songs: We've Got the Moon and Sixpence, Put That Down in Writing, Everything But You, I Don't Want You To, When Things Go Wrong

Story: Peter Partridge and Tom Oakland are two impecunious young artists in love respectively with Molly and Sallyann, the daughters of Professor Harper. At an auction, Peter, bidding on behalf of the Professor, has bought a brass bottle, not knowing it contains Fakrash-el-Aamash, a Genie who is so delighted to see daylight again, that he will provide many embarrassing proofs of his gratitude. The artists' humble abode is turned into a pleasure-house, filled with scantily-clad houris; at one point the protesting Professor is turned into a donkey; and Beth Churchill, a rival for Tom's affections, suffers from the Genie's over-enthusiasm.

Notes: Based on the 1909 play "The Brass Bottle" by F. Anstey, which had been a hit at the Vaudeville, this musical version changed a number of the characters, and introduced speciality dance acts and acrobats, but kept much to the spirit of the original, where the presence of the Genie turns out to be a problem rather than an advantage. The magic effects were much praised, and were credited to the stage illusionist, Oswald Williams.



Frances Day



Peter Haddon, Bobby Howes, Jean Adrienne,
Alfred Drayton & Jack Lambert

TELL HER THE TRUTH

London run: Saville, June 14th (239 performances)

Music: Jack Waller & Joseph Tunbridge

Book & Lyrics: R.P. Weston & Bert Lee

Director: William Mollison

Choreographer: Fred Leslie

Musical Director: Joseph Tunbridge

Cast: Bobby Howes (*Bobbie*), Alfred Drayton (*Mr Ralston*), Peter Haddon (*Dick*), Jean Adrienne (*Gwen*), Henrietta Watson (*Mrs Ralston*), Winifred Izard (*Ethel*), Polly Luce & Helen Gray (*Two actresses*), Jack Lambert, Wylie Watson, Robert Rudd, Diana Maxwell.

Songs: Happy The Day, That's Fine, Hoch Caroline!, Sing Brothers!, Horrortorio.

Story: Bobbie, an employee at Mr Ralston's estate agency, accepts a £1,000 bet, from his employer and colleague Dick, that he can last 24 hours telling nothing but the truth. During this time he loses a sale by telling a client that the land on offer is about to fall into the sea; he tells Mrs Ralston about her husband's dalliances with two actresses the previous evening; he tells Ethel, the Vicar's daughter, that she is the worst singer he has ever heard; and he offends his girlfriend, Gwen, when he says he hates her new hat. A panicking Ralston and Dick try to cheat by altering the clocks, but Bobbie wins. He then proceeds to tell a whole series of lies which manage to put everything back to the way it was, and reassure everyone he was lying all through the past 24 hours.

Notes: Based on the play "Nothing but the Truth" by James Montgomery, which had been a great hit at the Savoy in 1918, this was described as a "play with music". It had excellent notices and only came off because Bobby Howes insisted on leaving the cast for his planned holiday, and, as the star attraction, he could not be replaced. An attempt was made to stage the show in New York with comedian Jack Sheehan Jr, but it was a complete flop.

Photo by Bassano



Kathleen Hilliard

THE PRIDE OF THE REGIMENT

London run: St Martin's, July 6th (52 performances)

Music: Walter Leigh

Book; V.C. Clinton-Baddeley & Scobie Mackenzie

Director: V.C. Clinton-Baddeley

Musical Director: Walter Leigh

Producer: Rita John

Cast: Frank Birch (*Prime Minister*), V.C. Clinton-Baddeley (*General Blazes*), Gavin Gordon (*Rudolph de Vavasour*), Kathleen Hilliard (*Millicent Blazes*), Trefor Jones (*Lancelot Brown*)

Songs: The Children's Voices Guileless Sing, Love Calls as No One Supposes

Songs: It is 1854 and a selection of aunts and maidens, knitting for the soldiers in the Crimean War, are visited by the Prime Minister and General Blazes. But there is dirty work afoot. Captain Rudolph de Vavasour wants to marry the General's daughter, Millicent, and the

General has given his consent, even though Millicent loves someone humbler in rank, Lieutenant Lancelot Brown. Poor Lancelot is cashiered when found guilty of the theft of some papers, and goes off to the Crimea to fight for his country, his reputation and the truth. The real thief, (Rudolph, of course!) is about to marry Millicent when an heroic Lancelot returns and exposes the Captain's villainy. Rudolph is dismissed and then accidentally shot, while Lancelot gains the best prize of all, Millicent Blazes.

Notes: With a subtitle "Cashiered for his Country" this was a tongue-in-cheek mixture of burlesque and satire on old fashioned musical comedy, patriotic songs, melodrama, and Victorian attitudes. Clever and enjoyable as it was, and with a much praised comic villain performance, it was generally felt to be more suitable for an end-of-term romp by University students, and not exactly suitable fayre for the sophisticated West End.

PARIS IN LONDON

London run: Comedy, August 24th (21 performances)

Music: Alfred Reynolds & others

Book & Lyrics: Mary & Donovan Parsons

Director: Henry de Bray

Choreographer: (*Ballets*) Mme Komarova

Choreographer: (*Ensemble Dances*) Henri de Bray & Honor Blair

Musical Director: Leighton Lucas

Cast: A.W. Baskcomb (*Albert Harper*), Joan Fred-Emney (*Emily Harper*), Henry de Bray (*Vicomte Henri*), Betty Spell (*Suzette*), Monica Disney (*Renée*), Carylle (*The Spirit of Paris*), Blake Adams (*Sailor*), Leslie Holland (*Chauffeur*), Bruce Anderson (*André de Vaux*)

Songs: When the Mutes Screw A Good Man Down, That Old Moon, The Spirit of Paree, Who's for the Spanish Main?, There's a Storm Hovering

Story: A typical Englishman, Albert Harper and his wife Emily, have gone to Paris to find their missing son. On arrival they are fleeced by a so-called Vicomte and his two supposed "nieces", Suzette and Renée; they are shocked by goings-on in places like La Place Pigalle and an Apache Den; they are very shocked by a skimpily clad dancer representing "The Spirit of Paris", a British sailor on the lookout for a good time, and a chauffeur from Lancashire with Fatima, an Oriental dancer; and they are totally shocked at a Bohemian studio in Montparnasse where they discover their son, passing as an artist under the name André de Vaux.

Notes: With its thinnest of plots, this was a sequence of set-pieces including "The Dancing Lesson, after Degas", the "Dream of the Roses", a Toy-Box sequence, a "Mime-o-Lude", an Hungarian Csardas, a Baccanale, and the ballets staged by the maîtresse-de-ballet at the Folies-Bergère. Falling between a revue and a musical comedy it failed to satisfy supporters of either, and came off with three weeks.



Joan Fred-Emney

Photo by Bassano



THE MERRY WIDOW (3rd Revival)

London run: Stoll Theatre, 14th April (72 Performances)

Music: Franz Lehar

Lyrics: Adrian Ross

Book and Adaptation: Basil Hood

Director: Richard Bird

Musical Director: Alexander Faris

Cast: Helen Gilliland (*Sonia*), Carl Brisson (*Danilo*), Nancie Lovat (*Natalie*), George Graves (*Popoff*), Derek Oldham (*Vicomte Camille*), George Child (*Marquis*)

Songs: Vilia, Merry Widow Waltz, I go off to Maxim's, Women, A Dutiful Wife, I'm Just a Simple Girl

Story: The original plot was set in the Pontevedian Embassy in Paris where the Ambassador is most anxious that his country's Prince Danilo should marry Sonia Glawari, an extremely wealthy and attractive widow. This marriage is necessary because Pontevedria is almost bankrupt and needs the money. Although Danilo finds her attractive, he does not want to be seen as a fortune-

hunter. He resists, but finally succumbs when she fools him into believing she is actually penniless. Sub-plots involve other flirtations, night-club scenes and much drinking of champagne!

Notes: This was one of the biggest world-wide hits in the history of musical theatre - unrivalled until the phenomenal success of the Lloyd Webber/Cameron Mackintosh shows in the last quarter of the 20th Century. It started in Vienna in 1905 and made its way round the world, breaking box office records everywhere and leading to some merchandising and fashion fads - Merry Widow hats, fans, gowns and even corsets! The first London production was in 1907, and then was revived in 1923, 1932, 1943, 1958, 1969 and 1985.

Original London production: Daly's, 1907 (Lily Elsie & Joseph Coyne)

Daly's, May 1923 (with Evelyn Laye & Carl Brisson)

Touring version returned in 1924 (Nancie Lovat & Carl Brisson)

ALL FOR JOY

London run: Piccadilly Theatre, October 28th (23 performances)

Music & Lyrics: Gilbert Gunn

Book: Frederick Carlton

Director: Horatio Taylor

Choreographer: Jenny Robbins

Musical Director: Gilbert Gunn

Producer: Lucien Samett

Cast: Harry Thurston (*John Clifford Armstrong*), Reginald Palmer (*John Cecil Armstrong*), Constance Carpenter (*Joy Armstrong*), Sydney Fairbrother (*Countess of Axminster*), Chick Farr (*The Hon John Wilton*), Arthur Pusey (*Clifford Barton*), Alfred Atkins (*Lord Brunton*), Glen Ellyn (*Kay Gay*)

Songs: Once in a Blue Moon, You're My She I'm Your He, Safety in Numbers, The Barrister and the Grocer, Suspects, Falling in Love

Story: John Clifford Armstrong, a grocer, tried to arrange a marriage of convenience between his daughter, Joy, and The Hon. John Wilton, snobbish son of the Countess of Axminster - who has confused him with his barrister cousin, John Cecil Armstrong. However, Joy has gone ahead and married Clifford Barton and flown with him to Switzerland to trace a missing ruby belonging to Lord Brunton. The Hon John Wilton has meantime taken up with an American film star, Kay Gay. With the old standbys of a stolen ruby, a forced marriage, a pushy American woman, a number of pompous or "silly-ass" titled people, and scenes abroad with "funny" foreigners, this was about as unexciting an evening in the theatre as could be imagined.

Notes: Based on the original farce by Lucien Samett, and running twice-nightly, this was a two-week flop, with the book "as unfunny and the music is unenchanted" (Observer)



Constance Carpenter



WILD VIOLETS

London run: Drury Lane, October 31st (291 performances)

Music: Robert Stolz

Book & Lyrics: Hassard Short, Desmond Carter & Reginald Purdell

Director: Hassard Short

Choreographer: Albertina Rasch

Musical Director: Charles Prentice

Cast: Jerry Verno (*Hans*), Charlotte Greenwood (*Augusta*), Jean Cadell (*Mme. Hoffman*), Therese Vincent (*Mlle Dupres*), John Garrick (*Paul*), Esmond Knight (*Otto*), Fred Conyngham (*Erik*), Adele Dixon (*Liesel*), Myrtle Stewart (*Lena*), Valerie Hay (*Mitzi*), Harriet Bennet (*Mary Rutherford*)

Songs: A Girl Has Got My Heart, Don't Say Goodbye, Charming Weather, Summer in Our Hearts, Dreaming of Love, I Sort of Knew, Outdoor Girl, Wine In Our Glasses

Story: Beginning in the Austrian Alps in the 1920s, the story concerns the courtships, assignations and misunderstandings between the girls of a finishing school and the young men from the nearby University. However the opening is a reunion of former pupils at the Stone Jug hostelry, hosted by Hans and Augusta, formerly servants at the old school. The youngsters playfully accuse the oldies of having no “go” in them in the olden days – and so, in flashback, we go back to the 1890s, to the young, unmarried Hans and Augusta, to Madam Hoffman, the waspish schoolmistress, to Mlle Dupres, the French mistress, and to students Paul, Otto, Erik and their girls, Liesel, Lena and Mitzi. There is a scandal when an English girl, Mary Rutherford elopes with her student hero.

Notes: This was an English version of “Wenn die kleinen Veilchen Blühen” by Robert Stolz and Bruno-Hardt-Warden. It was first staged in the Hague early in 1932.

A KISS IN SPRING

London run: Alhambra, November 28th (83 performances)

Music: Emmerich Kalman & Herbert Griffiths

Book & Lyrics: Julius Brammer & Alfred Grünwald

English Book & Lyrics: L. Du Garde Peach

Director: Norman Marshall

Choreographer: Frederick Ashton

Musical Director: Walford Haden

Producer: Sir Oswald Stoll

Cast: Eric Bertner (*Raoul*), Billy Milton (*Florimond*), Kenneth Kove (*Henri*), Eileen Moody (*Violette*), Sylvia Welling (*Ninon*), Eric Stanley (*Baron Goldstein*), Alfred Wellesley (*M. Piquatscher*), Charles Barrett (*Parigi*).

Notes: A trio of young Bohemians, Raoul, a painter, Florimond and Henri, a composer and a poet - eventually achieve fame and fortune mainly by the production of a musical piece created by themselves. There is a young street singer, Violette, and her rival, Ninon, a young actress and model, to provide the love element, the art-patron Baron Goldstein to move the plot along, and Monsieur Piquatscher, the comical bailiff, and Parigi, the Organ grinder, to provide the comedy. There was spectacle galore in the scenery and a major ballet sequence danced by Alicia Markova and Harold Turner, supported by Prudence Hyman and Walter Gore.

The operetta was first staged on March 21st 1930 in Vienna. The London production was reviewed unfavourably and– playing twice-daily – managed under a two month run.



LILAC TIME (5th Revival)

London run: Globe, December 26th – January 21st

Music: Franz Schubert

Book & Lyrics: A.M. Willner & H. Reichert

English Book & Lyrics: Adrian Ross

Director: Lee Ephraim

Musical Director: H.A. Carruthers

Cast: Maurice D'Oisley (*Schubert*), Rose Hignell (*Lili*),
Percy Heming (*Von Schober*), W.H. Berry (*Christian Veit*)

Notes: This was back in London to celebrate its tenth anniversary,
following its ongoing provincial tour.

Original London production: Lyric Theatre, December 1922

First Revival: Lyric, December 1925

Second Revival: Daly's December, 1927

Third Revival: Daly's Theatre, 1928



THE ONE GIRL

London run: London Hippodrome, February 24th – April 1st.

Music & Lyrics: Vincent Youmans, Clifford Grey, Harold Adamson

Book: William Anthony Maguire

English version: Herbert Sargent

Director: William J. Wilson

Musical Director: Melville Gideon

Cast: Lupino Lane (*Freddy Stone*), Arthur Riscoe (*Slippery Sam*), Guy Middleton (*Pierre*), Robert Naylor (*Dick*), Robert Hale (*Holy Joe*), Madelon (*Mireille Perrey*), Roy Royston (*Bob Mason*), Ruth Maitland (*Mrs Hastings*), Pearl Osgood (*Dot Hastings*)

Songs: The Night I Made You Mine, I'll Tell the Stars I Love You, I Wish I Knew a Bigger Word Than Love, I'm Glad I Waited, Be Good to Me, If I Were You, Why Ain't I Home?, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Story: In France just before the Armistice in 1918, four soldiers, Frenchman Pierre, Holy Joe from the Salvation Army, light-fingered Slippery Sam and Dick decide to adopt Madelon, a little French orphan, and to act as her joint fathers. 12 years later they are all in New York, with Madelon working for the Salvation Army, and being pursued by Bob Mason, an ardent young millionaire. Their budding romance is endangered when Slippery Sam, in cahoots with his permanently befuddled friend Freddy Stone, gets involved in a stolen jewellery case, and causes suspicion to fall on Madelon. A series of adventures ensue, and then Madelon finds she is falling in love with Dick.

Notes: This was a heavily re-written version of the 1930 Broadway musical "Smiles", with several additions to Vincent Youman's score. It had opened at Streatham as a Christmas attraction but its subsequent tour was cancelled when several leading cast members were taken ill.



MOTHER OF PEARL

London run: Gaiety, January 27th (181 performances)

Music: Oscar Straus

Original book & Lyrics: Alfred Grünwald

English lyrics & Book: A.P. Herbert

Director: Aurial Lee

Musical Director:

Producer: C.B. Cochran

Cast: Alice Delysia (*Josephine Pavani*), Sepha Treble (*Pearl*), Frederick Ranalow (*Richard Moon*), Reginald Gardiner (*John Sterling*), Aubrey Mather, Austin Trevor,

Songs: Every Woman Thinks she wants to Wander, Why Shouldn't a Woman Have an Affair? When anybody plays or sings (I think of you), There must be something, An old-fashioned girl, Take your wife to Paris, I

know what I want, It's a shame.

Story: The revue star Josephine Pavani had an illegitimate daughter in her younger days, and that child, Pearl, not knowing anything of her mother's identity, has been brought up by her father, Richard Moon, M.P. Pearl has fallen in love with a young man, John Sterling, but he has developed a crush on a famous actress, and that actress is none other than Josephine. Lucy decides to go and speak to her rival and ask her to give up the boy. The older woman agrees to do so and, inevitably the truth comes out.

Notes: Originally called "Eine Frau, die weiss was sie will", and based on "Le Fauteuil" by Louis Verneuil, this operetta premiered in Berlin in September 1932. It was the last of Oscar Straus's successes in Germany, for soon after, Straus, Grünwald and his leading lady, Fritzi Massary would flee from Nazi Germany. However this future was unknown at the time of this English-language version, changed from a German to a British setting and with a number of character name-changes. The book by A.P. Herbert was much acclaimed for its wit, and Alice Delysia scored a great personal success.

JOLLY ROGER

London run: Savoy, March 1st
 Transferred: Lyceum, June 5th
 (199 performances)

Music: Walter Leigh

Book & Lyrics: Scobie Mackenzie
 & V.C. Clinton-Baddeley

Director: William Mollison

Choreographer: Hedley Briggs

Musical Director: Reginald Burston

Producer: Rita John & George Robey

Cast: Gavin Gordon (*Sir Roderick Venom*),
 Victor Orsini (*Jolly Roger*),
 George Robey (*Bold Ben Blister*),
 Percy Heming (*Sir William Rowlocks*),
 Muriel Angelus (*Amelia*),
 Scott Russell (*Bloody Pirate*), Sara Allgood,
 Joan Collier, Norman Greene, Cecil Musk

Story: Sir Roderick Venom, Governor of Jamaica, needs to divert attention from his crimes, so he falsely arrests innocent planter Jolly Roger and orders his flogging for acts of piracy. However Admiral Sir William Rowlocks, his daughter Amelia and other visitors have arrived in Kingston in time to prevent the punishment. So the wicked Venom colludes with real pirates to kidnap the Admiral and his party, throw the men overboard and have the women for their own wicked ways. Jolly Roger, sprung from prison by his friend Ben Blister, meets Amelia and they fall in love. Venom's pirates capture the Admiral and party, forcing Roger and Ben to launch a rescue mission. Meantime Venom takes Amelia as his personal prisoner and announces he will marry her. Many adventures later Roger and Ben finally defeat the evil plans, the Admiral produces a Royal Decree depriving Venom of his office, the wicked are punished and several are announced, most notably that of Jolly Roger with Amelia.

Notes: The producer, Rita John, had secured a major coup by persuading George Robey to appear in her show.



GEORGE ROBEY and CHARLOTTE LEIGH in "JOLLY ROGER"



George Robey

Photo by Stage Photo Co

He was one of the most popular stars of the time. But, following a short provincial tour, the show was about to move into the West End when a great problem arose. The newly formed actors' union, Equity, was fighting for a "closed shop" in the West End, and ordered its members not to appear alongside George Robey because he had refused to join the Union. The row escalated. All the cast, bar one, announced they were prepared to disobey Equity, even though a mass Union meeting at Drury Lane Theatre ordered them to walk out of the show. Robey was adamant that he would not join, but was prepared to give Equity a voluntary cash donation equivalent to the membership fee. Equity refused.

The impasse looked likely to damage the fledging Union – until George Robey found a way to let Equity off the hook. He joined Rita John as a co-producer of the show. Actor-managers could work without becoming Equity members because of a possible conflict of interest. This managed to save face all round, although much of the theatre world and the Press regarded it as a victory for Robey.



HE WANTED ADVENTURE

London run: Saville Theatre, March 28th (152 performances)

Music: Jack Waller & Joseph Tunbridge

Book & Lyrics: E.P. Weston & Bert Lee

Additional lyrics: Clifford Grey

Director: William Mollinson

Choreographer: Fred A Leslie

Musical Director: Joseph Tunbridge

Cast : Bobby Howes (*Bobby/Captain Brimstone*), Ernest Graham (*Parks/Bosun*), Judy Gunn (*Peggy Bramstone/A Stowaway*), Lena Halliday (*Miss Bramstone/A Turkish Wench*), Wylie Watson (*Eustace Didcott/A Collector of Slaves*), Marie Burke (*Ziska Morenski/Ziska, Pride of the Harem*), Raymond Newell (*Petrolski/The Mate*), Abraham Sofaer (*Dr Zodiac/A Hindoo Seer*), Winifred Izard (*Mrs. Zodiac/A Hindoo Seer*), Arthur Bell (*Inspector Cummings*)

Songs: Dare Me To, My Heart's To Let, When You've Fallen In Love, This Is the Hour, Smile and Be Bright, Monarch of the Seas, The Bobby and the Spy, You came to me.

Story: Wealthy, bored Bobby Bramstone dreams he is a pirate chief, and some real-life guests at his stately home get caught up in his dream as he fights off Petrolski the mutineer, Eustace the slave collector, Ziska the pride of the harem and Mr & Mrs Zodiac, the Indian fakirs. But then, on waking, the dream becomes reality when he discovers these guests are trying to steal some jewels that have been hidden there. And who is the mysterious Russian vamp begging for 'protection' from the vile Petrolski? And is he actually her accomplice in crime?

Notes: A musical fantasy based on Walter Hackett's play "Ambrose Applejohn's Adventures", this was just an excuse for some glamorous scenery, exotic costumes and knockabout comedy, providing a vehicle for the comic delights of Bobby Howes and Marie Burke.

MUSIC IN THE AIR

London run: His Majesty's, May 19th (275 performances)

Music: Jerome Kern

Book & Lyrics: Oscar Hammerstein II

Director: Jerome Kern & Oscar Hammerstein II

Music Director: Hyam Greenbaum

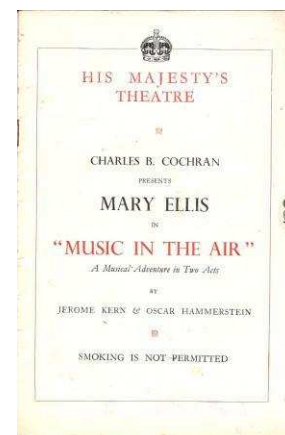
Producer: C.B.Cochran

Cast: Mary Ellis (*Frieda Hatzfeld*), Arthur Margetson (*Bruno Mahler*), Eve Lister (*Sieglinde Lessing*), Horace Hodges (*Dr Walther Lessing*), Bruce Carfax (*Karl Reder*), Herbert Ross (*Ernst Weber*), Muriel George (*Lili Kirschner*), Lance Fairfax (*Cornelius*)

Songs: There's a Hill Beyond a Hill, I Told Ev'ry Little Star, I am so Eager, When the Spring is in the Air, And Love Was Born, One More Dance, In Egern on the Tegern See, I'm Alone, The Song is You, We Belong Together

Story: Siegelinde and Karl are on a hiking expedition in their Bavarian homeland when they meet Frieda Hatzfeld, the famous soprano and her lover and librettist, Bruno Mahler. Frieda starts flirting with Karl, and Bruno starts flirting with Sieglinde – and this leads to a great row. Frieda flounces out and refuses to star in Bruno's next operetta, "Tingle Tangle". Bruno persuades Sieglinde to take over the part, but she turns out to be nothing more than an amateur and fails in the role. All ends happily when Frieda reconciles with Bruno and returns to the show, leaving Sieglinde and Karl to return to their formerly happy life in their Bavarian village.

Notes: Originally produced on Broadway in November 1932 with a cast including Walter Slezak and Marjorie Main, the American version ran for 342 performances. Kern and Hammerstein re-created the show in London. A film version was made in 1934 starring Gloria Swanson.



GIVE ME A RING

London run: London Hippodrome, June 22nd (239 performances)

Music: Martin Broones

Lyrics: Graham John

Book: Guy Bolton, R.P. Weston & Bert Lee

Director: William Mollison

Musical Director: Debroy Somers

Producer: Moss Empires

Cast: Evelyn Laye (*Peggy*), Will Fyffe (*Scotty*), Bud Flanagan (*Bill Marks*), Chesney Allen (*Jim Strong*), John Garrick (*Cliff Reed*), Ernst Verebes (*Jack Brookes*), Gina Malo (*Toni*), Aubrey Dexter (*Sir Francis Brookes*), Bertha Belmore (*Mrs Trellis*)

Songs: You're Welcome, Living in the Clouds, A Couple of Fools in Love, I Only Want One Girl, I'm Not Worrying 'Bout Anything, Because of You, I'm Getting Warmer, Exclusively Yours, I Don't Know How I Can Do Without You, Beautiful Gowns

Story: When telephone operator Peggy gets her wires crossed, things start to go horribly wrong. She has arranged a blind date with the radio star Cliff Reed, whilst Jack Brookes, a young hotel manager, has a similar assignation with Toni from the Marie Antoinette Dress Shop. Because of Peggy's mix-up both couples are mis-matched and a whole series of misunderstandings ensue.

The mix-up is made worse by Jack's Uncle, Sir Francis Brookes, the owner of the Porchester Hotel, and the hotel staff which includes Mrs Trellis, the bossy housekeeper, Scotty, the steward, and a pair of incompetent house engineers and telephone repair men, Bill Marks and Jim Strong.

Notes: This was a great spectacle with a mannequin parade at the end of Act One, and gowns designed by Norman Hartnell. It included a number of variety "turns" from established comedians like Will Fyffe and the double-act of Flanagan and Allen. During its run Evelyn Laye was replaced with Adele Dixon and then Binnie Hale. Will Fyffe was replaced by Huntley Wright, and the young juve lead, Ernst Verebes, was replaced with the young John Mills.



Evelyn Laye

Photo by Sasha

MRS BLUEBEARD

London run: Garrick Theatre, June 26th – July 22nd (4 week Season)

Music: Gavin Lee

Lyrics: Kathleen Barbour

Book: Con West & Herbert C. Sargent

Director: Ernie Lotinga

Choreographer: Doris O'Shea

Musical Director: Gavin Lee

Cast: Ernie Lotinga (*Jimmy Jossler*), Daisy Bindley (*Hannah Marconi*), Jack Frost (*Jack Walker*), Harold Wilkinson (*Corrie Marconi*), The Fallow Twins (*Jean and Joan*), Marjorie Dey, Renee Stocker, Jack Dwyer, Dayle Crossley, Fred Rex, Stanley Groves, Septimus Walters

Songs: It's Only Meant for Me, That's Why I Love You, Till I Met You, Devotion, Making Hay in the Moonlight, Please Handle with Care.

Story: Jimmy Jossler is an employee of the Beach Hotel and has been tricked into becoming the fifth husband of the hotel owner, Hannah Marconi – who has married him simply to save paying his weekly salary. Once he cottons on, Jimmy is not happy and plots with his friend, the head porter, Jack Walker. But there is another plot afoot: Hannah and her fourth "husband", Corrie Marconi, are planning an insurance scam and a trip to the South Seas to get their hands on a valuable hidden ruby. As the evil couple set sail on the Saucy Sarah, Jimmy and Jack stow away and manage to get the ruby for themselves. In the meantime he and Jack have been courting Jean and Joan, a couple of twins from the island - and whom they eventually marry.

Notes: This show had opened a variety theatre tour at the Chelsea Palace in March, playing twice-nightly. For its West End production it had been expanded in material and size of cast to play as a once-nightly "musical comedy". With a troupe of dancing girls, a speciality act from the Fallow Twins and a series of comedy sketches from Ernie Lotinga, this was more a "variety-musical" than anything else. After a four-week season at the Garrick it resumed its tour, reverting back to a twice-nightly show.

THE BELLE OF NEW YORK (4th Revival)

London run: Garrick Theatre,
August 5th (90 performances)

Music: Gustave Kerker

Book & Lyrics: Hugh Morton
(C.M.S. McLellan)

Director: Frederick G. Lloyd

Cast:

Kathleen Burgis (*Violet Gray*), Gerald Seymour (*Harry Bronson*), George Morgan (*Ichabod Bronson*),
Laurie Wensley (*Karl von Pumpernick*), Fred Rene (*Blinky Bill*), Gwen Gorton (*Cora Angelique*),
Geo. H. Asquin (*Doc Snifkins*)



This revival came into London for a three month season in the middle of its provincial tour.

Original London run :
Shaftesbury Theatre,
April 1898

First Revival:
Lyceum, June 1914;

Second revival:
Lyceum, May 1919;

Third revival:
Daly's , April 1931

*The original front-cloth from
the 1933 touring production*

CLANCARTY

London run: Winter Garden Theatre, August 31st (23 performances)

Music: H. Wolseley Charles

Lyrics: Stanley West

Book: Percy Nash

Director: Percy Nash

Choreographer: Espinosa

Musical Director: H. Wolseley Charles

Producer: Jane Moreland

Cast : Dale Smith (*Earl Clancarty*), Enid Cruickshank (*Lady Clancarty*),
Franklin Dyall (*King William III*), Bryan Powley (*Sir George Barclay*),
Vincent Sternroyd (*Sir John Friend*), Alex Keith (*Robert Hunt*),
Bertram Dench (*Clink*), Barbara Gott (*Mother Hunt*),
Betty Huntley-Wright (*Lady Betty Noel*), Irene Cowden (*Princess Anne*)

Songs: I've Got Them all under My Thumb, Birdcage Walk Ballet



Notes: Based on Tom Taylor's 1874 play "Lady Clancarty" this musical version aimed at lavish historical romance. The heroic Lord and Lady Clancarty are alerted to a plot to assassinate King William III. The conspirators include Sir George Barclay, Sir John Friend, and the smuggler Hunt. The comedy scenes included a jolly gaoler, Clink, and a strange Mother figure, Mother Hunt. Attempts at romantic figures included a rather silly lady-in-waiting, Lady Betty Noel, and a rather dull Princess Anne. All this was coupled with a musical score which was described as very "modern" and totally out of keeping with the historical setting. It gathered very unsympathetic reviews and was taken off within a month.

BALL AT THE SAVOY

London run: Drury Lane, September 8th (4 months?)

Music: Paul Abraham

Book & Lyrics: Alfred Grünwald & Fritz Löhner-Beda

English Book & Lyrics: Oscar Hammerstein

Director: Oscar Hammerstein

Cast: Maurice Evans (*Aristide*),
Natalie Hall (*Madeleine*), Oskar Denes (*Mustapha Bei*),
Daisy (*Rita Nugent*), Barry Mackay (*Célestin*),
Rosy Barsony (*Kathy Mihazy/Tangolita*),
Tom Scott (*Pomerol*)

Story: The Marquis Aristide is a “ladies man” and a bit of a flirt. He has a secret date with the dancer Tangolita at the Grand Ball at the Hotel Savoy. Aided by Mustafa Bey from the Turkish Embassy, Aristide pretends he is going to the Savoy for a business meeting with the famous jazz musician José Pasodoble. He doesn't know that Pasodoble is the stage-name of Madeleine's American cousin, Daisy, so Madeleine knows exactly what he's up to. Veiled and in disguise, Madeleine turns up at the Savoy and starts flirting with

a timid young stranger, Célestin Formant. When Aristide and Tangolita retire to one of the private “supper” rooms, Madeleine and Célestin do exactly the same. Aided by the waiter Pomerol, Madeleine publicly announces she has betrayed her husband in the same way he has cheated on her. But did she or did she not? Eventually the truth is revealed – all parties are innocent, Aristide and Madeleine are reunited, and Daisy and Mustapha announce they are to marry.

Notes: The operetta “Bal im Savoy” premiered in Berlin December 1932, and very rapidly was translated and adapted for this English language premiere at Drury Lane. The score is more modern than the libretto, using an abundance of foxtrots, tangos and paso-dobles with some jazz – as well as the classic waltz. It was an early example of crossover between European operetta and New World Broadway musicals. However, it had a rather short run in London.



Rosy Barsony & Oskar Denes



NICE GOINGS ON

London run: Strand, September 13th (221 performances)



Photo by Stage Photo Co

NICE GOINGS ON

London run: Strand, September 13th (221 performances)

Music: Arthur Schwartz

Lyrics: Douglas Furber & Frank Eyton

Book: Douglas Furber

Director: Leslie Henson

Choreographer: Buddy Bradley

Musical Director: Arthur Rule

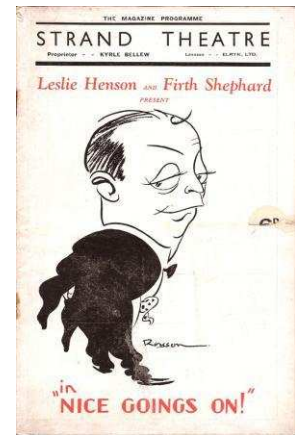
Producer: Frith Shephard & Leslie Henson

Cast: Leslie Henson (*Olaf Henscuttle*), Robertson Hare (*Wurlitzer*), Sydney Fairbrother (*Adela Teetle*), Fred Conyngham (*Paul Ginkler*), Madeleine Gibson (*Lorelei*), Zelma O'Neal (*Tutti*)

Songs: The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea, Lifesaver's Song, You Here and Me Here, What a Young Girl Ought to Know, Interpolated :You're an Old Smoothie (Whiting/Da Sylva/Brown)

Story: Olaf Henscuttle, a lowly clerk in the Civil Service, takes some incriminating photos of his superiors behaving very inappropriately at the Pink Spider bathing resort. Using a little bit of bribery, these photos could help him get some promotion to a higher office. Aided by Wurlitzer, his none-too-bright sidekick, and by Adela Teetle of the local Purity League, they pursue the misbehaving bosses of the Public Welfare Department. Meantime a straight love interest is supplied by Paul Ginkler and his inamorata Lorelei, and a comedy love interest between Olaf and the lovely Tutti.

Notes: This was a kind of "come-back" for the enormously popular Leslie Henson who had abandoned the stage during the past three years, and, accordingly, did excellent business. Amongst the many glamorous girls in a Bathing Beauty parade was a 16 year old Googie Withers in one of her first stage appearances. Amongst the smaller roles was Richard Hearne (later the famed "Mr Pastry")



NYMPH ERRANT

London run: Adelphi, October 6th (154 performances)

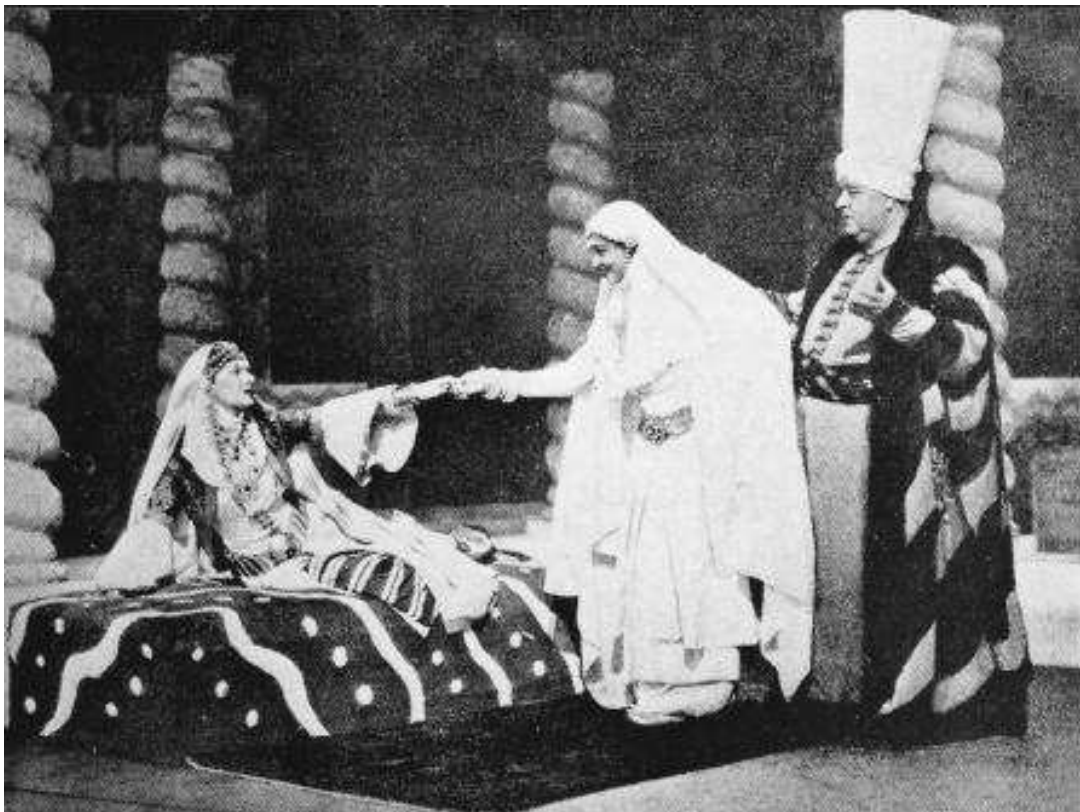


Photo by Stage Photo Co

Gertrude Lawrence, Elizabeth Welch & Bruce Winston

NYPH ERRANT

London run: Adelphi, October 6th (154 performances)

Music & Lyrics: Cole Porter

Book: Romney Brent

Director: Romney Brant

Choreographer: Agnes de Mille

Musical Director: Hyam Greenbaum

Producer: C.B.Cochran

Cast: Gertrude Lawrence (*Evangeline Edwards*), Moya Nugent (*Miss Pratt*), Austin Trevor (*André de Crioissant*), Alexander Ivo (*Alexei*), Morton Selden (*Count Mantalini*), David Burns (*Constantine*), Ralph Roberts (*Kasim*), Bruce Winston (*Ali*), Elisabeth Welch (*Haidee Robinson*), Walter Crisham (*Ben Winthrop*), Wilfred Caithness (*Rev. Pither*), Edward Underdown (*Joe*), Norah Howard, Iris Ashley

Songs: Experiment, It's bad for Me, Neuville-sur-Mer, The Cocotte, How Could We Be Wrong? , They're Always Entertaining, Georgia Sand, Nymph Errant, Ruins, The Physician, Solomon, Back to Nature with You, Plumbing, Si vous aimez les poitrines, You're Too Far Away, Cazanova.

Story: Evangeline Edwards has left her finishing school in Switzerland and, encouraged to “experiment” by the school’s chemistry mistress, Miss Pratt, decides to explore the exciting world of sex and lose her virginity before settling down in England. Her “experiments” all fail! Attempted romances include Folies Bergère producer André de Croissant who wants to make her a star; Alexei, a Russian violinist who shows her the soul of Russian music; Count Mantalini of the Holy Roman Empire; Greek businessmen Constantine; and an unfortunate incident where she gets sold into a harem, guarded by Ali. Throughout it all, she is still a virgin. In the harem she meets Haidee, a kidnapped American, and when Ben Winthrop breaks into the harem to rescue Haidee, Evangeline persuades him to rescue her instead, and they run away together to the desert. But he is more interested in plumbing than in love-making. Back in Paris, Evangeline decides to join the Folies after all – enticed by the ten handsome chorus boys in the show. But they are all gay! She gives up and ends up back in Oxford in the vicarage garden with Reverend Pither and friends. As the others go in for tea, Evangeline remain behind. Along comes the new young handsome gardener Joe. They chat awhile, get closer and closer, and finally Joe offers Evangeline an apple. As she takes a bite from the apple, the curtain falls.

Notes: Based on the somewhat scandalous novel by James Lavers, this Cole Porter show was expressly created for London and was considered far too saucy for Broadway. It did not get a New York production for almost another 50 years. It was a huge success for Gertrude Lawrence. It was also the first musical with choreography credited to Agnes de Mille.

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HELLA KURTY
MOYA NUGENT
ELISABETH WELCH
DAVID BURNS
WALTER CRISHAM
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GERTRUDE LAWRENCE
IN
CHARLES B. COCHRAN'S
Production
NYMPH ERRANT
ADELPHI Theatre STRAND

COMMAND PERFORMANCE

London run: Saville Theatre, October 17th (31 performances)

Music: Jack Waller & Joseph Tunbridge

Lyrics: Clifford Grey

Book: C. Stafford Dickens

Director: William Mollison

Musical Director: Joseph Tunbridge

Producer: Jack Waller

Cast: Abraham Sofaer (*Vasco*), Marguerite Allen (*Lydia*), Dennis King (*Peter*), Martin Walker (*Prince Alexis*), William Kendall (*Tisch*), J.H. Roberts (*Vellenberg*), Helen Haye (*Queen Elinor*), Lawrence Grossmith (*King of Vassau*), Kate Cutler (*Queen of Vassau*), Jeanne Aubert (*Princess Katherine*)

Songs: Look to the Sun, Let me Love You Tonight, If I Lost You, I've Found a Man, So Happy,

Story: Actors Lydia and Peter are telling their director Vasco how they were attacked by ruffians, and managed to fight them off, when Peter is promptly arrested. One of the injured ruffians is the villainous Crown Prince Alexis and it is a serious crime to assault a member of the royal family. Peter is sentenced to imprisonment in the salt mines, but thanks to Court officials Tisch and Vellenberg, he is granted an audience with the Queen. She is struck by Peter's uncanny resemblance to Prince Alexis, and offers to cancel his sentence if he will do service to the country: go to neighbouring Vassau, pretend to be the real Prince Alexis and woo the Princess Katherine. This alliance is essential to prevent war between the two countries. When he comes back the real Prince will have recovered and will take over as bridegroom and Peter can go back to the theatre. However, a real love develops between Peter and Katherine, and when the wedding day arrives there are great problems. Eventually the truly wicked Prince is forced to disappear on pain of death, and Peter takes over to all intent and purpose as if he was always the true Prince.

Notes: In spite of a delightful and praised performance from the French actress Jeanne Aubert and some favourite and successful performers in the cast, this was dismissed as a piece of "second rate Ruritania" and lasted just one month. The actor George Sanders had a small walk-on part in this show.



Jeanne Aubert



Fred Astaire & Claire Luce

GAY DIVORCE

London run: Palace Theatre, November 2nd (180 performances)

Music & Lyrics: Cole Porter

Book: Kenneth Webb & Samuel Hoffenstein

Director: Felix Edwards

Choreographer: Carl Randall & Barbara Newberry

Musical Director: Percival Mackey

Producer: Lee Ephraim

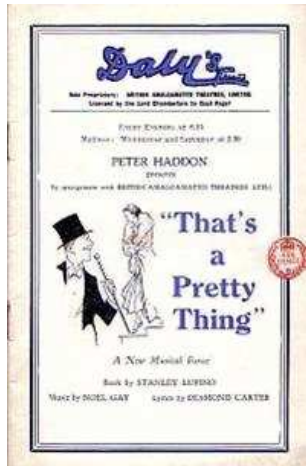
Cast: Fred Astaire (*Guy Holden*), Claire Luce (*Mimi*), Olive Blakeney (*Gertrude Howard*), Claud Allister (*Teddy*), Joan Gardner (*Barbara Wray*), Erik Rhodes (*Tonetti*), Eric Blore (*Waiter*), Fred Hearne (*Octavius Mann*)

Songs: After You Who?, I Still Love the Red White and Blue, Night and Day, How's Your Romance?, I've Got You on my Mind, Mr and Mrs Fitch, You're in Love

Story: The novelist Guy Holden is mistaken for a professional correspondent in Mimi's divorce case. Once the misunderstanding is cleared up, Guy and Mimi prepare to spend all their future Nights and Days together.

Notes: Based on the play "An Adorable Adventure" by J. Hartley Manners, this had opened on Broadway in November 1932 where it played 48 performances. Fred Astaire, Claire Luce, Erik Rhodes and Eric Blore had all been part of the original cast and had transferred to London. This was Fred Astaire's only stage musical without his sister, Adele. The London run closed on April 7th 1934. It was later filmed as "The Gay Divorcee" with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, though most of the Cole Porter songs were replaced.

performances. Fred Astaire, Claire Luce, Erik Rhodes and Eric Blore had all been part of the original cast and had transferred to London. This was Fred Astaire's only stage musical without his sister, Adele. The London run closed on April 7th 1934. It was later filmed as "The Gay Divorcee" with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, though most of the Cole Porter songs were replaced.



THAT'S A PRETTY THING

London run: Daly's, November 22nd (103 performances)

Music: Noel Gay

Lyrics: Desmond Carter

Book: Stanley Lupino

Director: Fred A. Leslie

Musical Director: Arthur Handley

Producer: Peter Haddon

Cast: Sara Allgood (*Mrs Digbat*), Bobbie Comber (*George Digbat*), Nancy Burne (*Dora*), Pearl Osgood (*Celia*), Kevin Bernard (*Eustace*), George Gee (*Jimmy Blake*), Jerry Verno (*Billy Blake*), Peter Haddon (*Marmaduke Postlethwaite*)

Songs: Daddy, How About You, La-di-da, Hitching my Wagon to You, Let's Be Happy Tonight.

Story: Mrs Digbat is a secret gambler with some heavy debts, but she dare not let George, her rich but miserly husband, find out. So she hits on a plan: she has copy made of her very valuable diamond necklace, planning to sell the original, using the money to clear her debts. Unfortunately her daughter and her niece, Dora and Celia, have also done the same thing with the same necklace to sort out their own financial problems. However, Mr Digbat himself also wants to get hold of it and so does Eustace, his sanctimonious butler. As soon as any one of them is alone, he or she makes straight for the safe and the red morocco leather case containing the necklace. By the end of the play there are some half-dozen necklaces flying round the stage. Other characters involved are Jimmy and Billy Blake, suitors for the Digbat girls, and Marmaduke Postlethwaite, the silly-ass friend of the family.

Notes: This was more or less a farcical play with an interspersed five songs and a few dances. It was much enjoyed though there was considerable criticism for one line of dialogue. Mrs Digbat finally denounced her husband with the words "You bloody scoundrel!" Although it was nearly twenty years since the celebrated "Not bloody likely" in Shaw's "Pygmalion", the use of the word "bloody" was still considered a shocking occurrence in the theatre. The play had been performed under the title "Paste" during its pre-West End provincial tour.

BEAU BRUMMELL

London run: Saville Theatre, December 22nd (23 performances)

Music & Lyrics: B.C. Hilliam

Book: Harold Simpson

Director: Nigel Playfair

Choreographer: Andree Howard

Musical Director: N.D. Blindt

Cast: Harry Welchman (*Beau Brummell*), Guy Le Feuve (*Prince of Wales*), Noel Hood (*Duchess of Devonshire*), Muriel Barnby (*Lady Trumpington*), Bruce Seton.

Notes: This was an historical romance telling the story of Regency dandy Beau Brummell, starting with his early days in Bath and his rise as a personal favourite of the Prince Regent. This show had followed "Command Performance" into the Saville Theatre, and would prove to be the second flop in a row. The production was well staged, decently performed, and a lot of money had been spent on scenery and costumes, but it simply did not appeal to the public. The composer, B.C. Hilliam, was one half of the famous "Flotsam and Jetsam" music-hall entertainers.

Harry Welchman



ALF'S BUTTON

London run: Kingsway Theatre, December 23rd – January 6th 1934

Music: Temple Abaday

Lyrics: Grenville Robbins

Director: Martin Henry

Choreographer: Fred Lord

Cast: Billy Tasker (*Alf*), Richard Maxwell (*Mustapha*), Dudley Rolph (*Lieutenant Allen*), Blossom Berncastle (*Lady Fitz-Peter*), Lorna Hubbard (*Liz*)

Songs: No Time for Loving, Just a Little Ring, Can This Be a Dream?, The Menu



The film poster

Story: Private Alf Higgins discovers he owns a magic button. When you rub it, Mustapha, the Slave of the Button, appears and grants wishes – wishes that include producing a gorgeous Eastern Palace with a troupe of dancing slave girls, and even, when Alf is in the First World War trenches, and his soldier pal wishes he could see a line-up of chorus girls from the Hippodrome, just one rub, and they appear in all their splendour. An extremely useful result of Alf's Button is to sort out the romantic misunderstanding between Lieutenant Allen and Lady Isobel Fitz-Peter, but, perhaps best of all, to bring true love to Alf himself with his sweetheart, Liz.

Notes: W.A. Darlington's story had been a book, a play and a film, and now was turned into a musical with a dozen or so songs. Originally a Great War fantasy partly inspired by the interest in Orientalism (Chu Chin Chow, etc), the story was mostly how a series of soldiers' wishes went wrong: they asked for beer and got a strange Oriental version, they asked for the genie to bring down a plane, but he brought down a British one not a German, and so on. However, later versions – and particularly this musical one – were much more light-hearted. After this two-week Christmas run the show was enlarged with more songs and a bigger cast and went on to have several tours and revivals.

LILAC TIME (6th Revival)

London run: Alhambra, December 23rd – January 20th

Music: Franz Schubert

English version & Lyrics: Adrian Ross

Director: Lee Ephraim

Musical Director: H.A. Carruthers



Cast: Maurice d'Oisley (*Schubert*), Helen Gilliland (*Lili*), Derek Oldham (*Von Schober*), W.H. Berry (*Christian Veit*)

Notes: This was welcomed back for its Christmas season "as an old friend"

Original London production: Lyric Theatre, December 1922

First Revival: Lyric, December 1925

Second Revival: Daly's December, 1927

Third Revival: Daly's Theatre, 1928

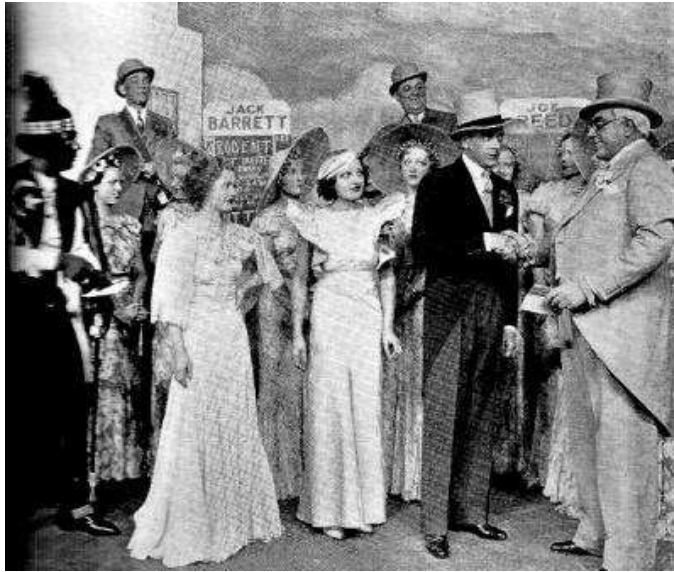
Fourth Revival: Lyric Theatre, May 1930

Fifth Revival: Globe, December 1932

Helen Gilliland & Maurice d'Oisley



Photo by Stage Photo Co



MR WHITTINGTON

London run: London Hippodrome. Feb 1st
Transfer: Adelphi, Sept 17th
(298 performances)

Music & Lyrics: John W. Green,
Joseph Tunbridge & Jack Waller

Book: Clifford Grey, Greatrex Newman
& Douglas Furber

Additional Lyrics: Edward Heyman

Director-Choreographer: Jack Buchanan

Musical Director: Harry Perritt

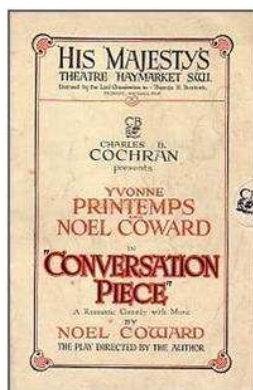
Producer: Moss Empires

Cast: Jack Buchanan (*Dick Whittington*),
Elsie Randolph (*Betty Trotter*),
Alfred Drayton (*Sir Timothy Hawkins*),
Kathleen Gibson (*Ena Hawkins*),
Fred Emney (*Lord Leatherhead*),
Richard Harris (*Emperor of Morocco*),
William Kendall.

Songs: The Pipes of P.C. Pan, When it's Excavation Time in Piccadilly, Oceans of Time, Weep No More My Baby, Who do you Think You Are?, The Sun is Round the Corner, Spare a Little Vote for Me, Like Monday Follows Sunday

Story: Richard Whittington, a young man about town, has lost everything on a Stock Exchange investment due to the scheming of the wicked Sir Timothy. To add to his troubles Richard is run over in Piccadilly and taken to a hospital with concussion, and he dreams of success: he rides the winner in the Derby, wins the Lonsdale Belt at the Albert Hall, strokes Oxford to victory, organises a scout and girl guide jamboree, wins a local election – and finally wakes up to discover his fortunes are restored – thanks to the delightful Betty Trotter, Sir Timothy's secretary – and he even is appointed Lord Mayor of London.

Notes: This very popular show ran for nearly nine months in London, and was preceded and followed by a successful provincial tour.



CONVERSATION PIECE

London run: His Majesty's, February 16th (177 performances)

Music, Book and Lyrics: Noel Coward

Director: Noel Coward

Musical Director: Reginald Burston

Producer: C.B. Cochran

Cast: Yvonne Printemps (*Melanie*), Noel Coward (*Paul, Du de Chaucigny-Varennes*),
Irene Browne (*Lady Julia*), Athole Stewart (*Duke of Beneden*),
Louis Hayward (*Marquis of Sheere*), Heather Thatcher (*Sophie*), Moya Nugent (*Martha*),
George Sanders (*Earl of Harringford*)

Songs: I'll Follow My Secret Heart, Regency Rakes, Charming Charming, Dear Little Soldiers, English Lesson, There's Always Something Fishy about the French, Nevermore, Brighton Parade, Danser Danser.

Story: An impoverished French nobleman, Paul Duc de Chaucigny-Varennes, has arrived in Regency Brighton with his young ward, Melanie. It is important that they find a wealthy husband for her. The first choice could be the Marquis of Sheere, or even his father, the Duke of Beneden. Meantime Lady Julia has taken quite a fancy to Paul himself. However gradually Paul and Melanie discover that they really are meant for each other.

Notes: This show was specifically created around the talents and personality of the French actress, Yvonne Printemps. Although a lot of the dialogue was in French, she needed extra help with her English pronunciation, and this came from Pierre Fresnay. Pierre Fresnay occasionally took over from Noel Coward during the London run, and when the show moved to New York (October 1934) with most of the English cast, Pierre Fresnay took on the role full-time. However, following its disappointingly short London run, the Broadway one was even shorter – a flop with just 55 performances.

HERE'S HOW!

London run: Saville Theatre, February 22nd (69 Performances)
Music & Lyrics: Eddie Pola, Robert Nesbitt & William Walker
Book: Austin Melford
Director: Robert Nesbitt
Choreographer: Jack Donohue
Musical Director: Billy Ternant

Cast: George Robey (*Lord Ullage*), Lili Damita (*Mimi*),
 Jack Melford (*The Hon. Hugh Possett*), Veronica Brady (*Lady Loudwater*),
 Phyllis Clare (*Sally Regan*), Jack Donohue (*Tim Regan*), Reilly and Comfort

Songs: I Should Like to Say

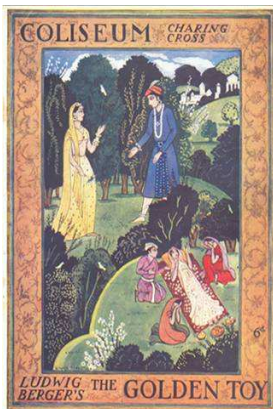
Story: During a sea cruise, Lord Ullage, the genial proprietor of a chain of breweries, and his fiancée Lady Loudwater are targeted by a bunch of crooks are trying to get their hands on his business. Matters are complicated when Mimi, a pretty young stowaway is found and when one of the crooks ends up dead. However, all ends well when Lady Loudwater pairs off Mimi with one of the nice crooks, and ends up marrying Lord Ullage.

Notes: The show was heavily criticised for its nonsensical plot, and for falling indecisively between musical comedy and revue. Apart from George Robey and his hilarious and much enjoyed "address" on the subject of nudity, together with the dancing of Jack Donohue, the critics could find nothing to praise in the entire show. There was much criticism of the French film star, Lili Damita, who shared top billing with George Robey. She asked to be released from the show and was replaced after two weeks by the actress June. Even so, the show came off within five weeks. (Lili Damita went on to become the first Mrs Errol Flynn and to make some 33 movies.)



Lili Damita

THE GOLDEN TOY



London run: Coliseum, February 28th (4 months?)
Music: Robert Schumann
Book & Lyrics: Carl Zuckmayer
English version: Dion Titheradge
Director: Ludwig Berger
Producer: Oswald Stoll

Cast: Peggy Ashcroft (*Vasantesena*), Ion Swinley (*Karudatta*),
 Wilfrid Lawson (*Prince Samsthanaka*),
 Lupino Lane (*The Barber*),
 Nellie Wallace (*Nana*),
 Ernest Thesiger (*Maireya*),
 Frank Cochrane (*Judge*),
 Margaret Yarde (*Vasantesena's Mother*),
 Wendy Toye & Cleo Nordi (*Principal*

Dancers).

Story: The beautiful bayadere Vasantesena is in love with penniless Karudatta, but she is pursued by an evil Prince Samsthanaka who wants to marry her. Other characters involved are the comedy Barber, the continually depressed priest Maireya, and Nana, the comic matron. However the unwanted marriage plans are thwarted when it turns out the evil Prince is a usurper, and the rightful Prince changed in the cradle when he was baby is none other than. . . ! A happy ending all round.

Notes: With outstanding scenery of domes, towers, turrets, a revolving stage, amazing costumes and dance, plus a real elephant - this was an amazing spectacle, but not much more. Schumann's music and songs didn't really match the surroundings and the plot - and the whole thing had a very short run. It played twice-daily at 2.30 and 8.15.

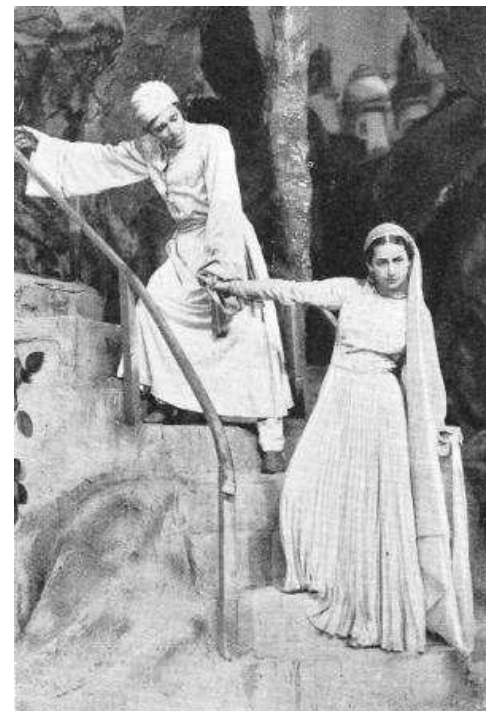


Photo by Stage Photo Co

Ion Swinley & Peggy Ashcroft

SPORTING LOVE

London run: Gaiety Theatre, March 31st (302 performances)

Music: Billy Mayerl

Lyrics: Desmond Carter & Frank Eyton

Book: Stanley Lupino

Director: Stanley Lupino

Choreographer: Laddie Cliff & Hilda Beck

Musical Director: Bill Mayerl

Producer: Laddie Cliff

Cast: Laddie Cliff (*Percy*), Stanley Lupino (*Peter*), Arthur Rigby Jr (*Gerald Dane*), Marjorie Browne (*Maude*), Vera Bryer (*Mabel*), Jenny Dean (*Nellie*), Marjorie Browne, Vera Bryer, Gilly Flower, Eileen Munro, Harry Milton, Wyn Weaver, Arty Ash, Basil Howes, James Croome.

Songs: Have a Heart, You're the Reason Why, A Shooting We Will Go, I Ought Not To. (*Interpolated song by Leslie Sarony: Psst! Oi! How are you getting on Today?*)

Story: Percy and Peter Brace are two impecunious brothers trying to stave off bankruptcy by risking it all on a horse. Gerald Dane, who holds a mortgage on their estate, wishes to prevent them from marrying his daughters, Mabel and Maude. The boys, by pretending they have just got married, try to get a rich Aunt to give them some money – and she turns up in person, creating the need for fake wives. Then a pretty girl called Nellie turns up, mistaking the Brace house for an hotel where she is to meet her proposed fiancé (whom she has never met!), and, worst of all, the wrong horse gets put into the horse-box for the Epsom Derby. The boys have no option but to make a run for it, and they board a cruise-ship en route for Argentina. . . only to find that boys, girls, aunt, villains and all are on the same ship - and the right horse has won the Derby - so all can end romantically and happily.

Notes: Running for the best part of a year this musical farce was made into a film in 1936 with Laddie Cliff and Stanley Lupino in their original roles – but the film dropped all the music and performed it as a straight farce.



Gilly Flower, Marjorie Browne, Jenny Dean, Vera Bryer, Stanley Lupino & Laddie Cliff

THE THREE SISTERS

London run: Theatre Royal Drury Lane, April 9th (3 weeks?)



Photo by Stage Photo Co

Adele Dixon, centre

THE THREE SISTERS

London run: Theatre Royal Drury Lane, April 9th (3 weeks?)

Music: Jerome Kern

Lyrics: Oscar Hammerstein II

Director: Oscar Hammerstein II

Choreographer: Ralph Reader

Cast: Elliot Makeham (*Will Barbour*),
Charlotte Greenwood (*Tiny*), Adele Dixon (*Dorrie*),
Victoria Hopper (*Mary*), Stanley Holloway (*P.C. Eustace*),
Albert Burdon (*George Purvis*), Esmond Knight (*Gypsy Hood*),
Richard Dolman (*Sir John Marsden*), Gladys Henson,
Dick Francis

Songs: I Won't Dance, Gaiety Girls, Now That I Have Springtime, Lonely Feet

Story: The three sisters are the daughters of Will Barbour, a travelling photographer and the story opens on Epsom Downs on the eve of the Derby in 1912. In the course of the story which includes a village wedding, and a scene in Flanders where the concert party soldiers stage a "Gaiety Girls" parade, Tiny, the eldest daughter marries Eustace, the local policeman; Dorrie, the ambitious one, captures Sir John Marsden, a baronet; and Mary falls in love with Gypsy Hood, a strolling player who deserts her on the eve of their wedding, goes to war, and finally returns repentant in her arms.

Notes: The success of the Kern/Hammerstein "Music in the Air" currently a hit at His Majesty's encouraged both to reverse their usual order, and to open their new show in London – this time at Drury Lane. The show was set on Epsom Downs on Derby Day, and as the curtain rose, a real white horse trotted on to the stage followed by flower girls, a chorus of laughing policemen and a couple of on-the-course bookmakers, gypsies, showmen, roundabouts, tents and a flock of geese. (During rehearsals the show also featured a flock of sheep, but they made so much noise bleating away in the wings that they were dropped.) Charlotte Greenwood was featured in a lavish spectacle, "I Won't Dance", but the show rapidly became known as "It Won't Go", and it came off after just three weeks.



Victoria Hopper, Charlotte Greenwood
& Adele Dixon



THE GEISHA (3rd Revival)

London run: Garrick Theatre, April 24th (39 performances)

Music: Sidney Jones

Lyrics: Harry Greenbank

Book: Owen Hall

Director: Frederick G. Lloyd

Choreographer: Alison Maclaren

Musical Director: Leonard Hornsey

Cast: Rose Hignell (*Mimosa San*),
E. Dudley Stevens (*Reginald Fairfax*), Percy Le Fre (*Wun-Hi*),
Bertha Riccardo (*Molly Seamore*), Leo Sheffeld (*Marquis Imari*),
Hylde Wray (*Juliette Diamant*),
Winifred Nathan (*Lady Constance Wynne*),
Walter Bird (*Dick Cunningham*), Webster Millar (*Capt. Katana*)

Original London run: Daly's September 1896.

First revival: Daly's, June 1906

Second revival: Daly's, June 1931



Gertie Millar - the original "Prudence"

THE QUAKER GIRL (1st Revival)

London run: Garrick Theatre, May 28th (closed 7th June)
Re-opened Winter Garden Theatre, June 18th (Closed June 23rd)

Music: Lionel Monckton

Lyric: Percy Greenbank & Adrian Ross

Book: James T. Tanner

Director: Frederick G. Lloyd

Choreographer: Alison MacLaren

Musical Director: Arthur Wood

Producer: John Southern – then an actors' co-operative

Cast: Lorna Hubbard (*Prudence*), Eric Fawcett (*Tony*),
Walter Bird (*Charteris*), Winifred Nathan (*Madame Blum*),
Noel Leyland (*Prince Carlo*)

Songs: A Bad Boy and a Good Girl, Take a Step, Tony from America,
Come to the Ball, A Runaway Match

Story: In a small village the Quaker girl Prudence meets Tony, an American attaché with the US Embassy in Paris. He has come to the village to attend the wedding of his friend Captain Charteris. Disobeying her parents, Prudence goes to the wedding reception and is caught sipping champagne. In defiance she goes off to Paris where she becomes a mannequin in Mme Blum's fashion salon. She catches the fancy of the philandering Prince Carlo, who invites her to attend the lavish ball he is

giving in the Bois de Boulogne. This prompts a jealous Tony to do what he should have done all along – to propose marriage to Prudence and thus ensure the happy ending.

Notes: The original production opened at the Adelphi on November 5th 1910 with Gertie Millar in the lead role. It was the first musical to be performed at the Adelphi Theatre, and the first in which Gertie Millar appeared that had a complete score by her husband, Lionel Monckton. It was a great success and ran for 536 performances. The Broadway production followed on October 23rd 1911, running for 240 performances. This first revival was something of a disaster. There was not enough money to pay the wages at the end of the first week and Equity instructed its members to withdraw. Winifred Nathan, a rather wealthy society lady making a late return to the stage, provided the sum of £125 as overall wages for the week. However, the cast squabbled on how it should be distributed, so the show came off. It was immediately re-constituted by John Southern and Winifred Nathan as an actors' co-operative, and therefore outside the jurisdiction of Equity. The show re-opened at the Winter Garden Theatre but it was a hopeless venture, and closed the same week.

Original London run: Adelphi, November 1910

HAPPY WEEKEND

London run: Duke of York's, May 30th (54 performances)

Music: Mihaly Eisemann

Book & Lyrics: Dion Titheradge

Additional lyrics: Arthur Stanley

Director: Dion Titheradge

Cast: Louise Browne (*Polly Petworthy*), David Hutcheson (*Francis Mowbray*),
Steve Geray (*Rikki Brant*), Magda Kun (*Mitzi Prisky*), Stella Maris (*Lola Smith*),
Mildred Cottell (*Miss Blyth-Pratt*), Claud Allister (*Edward Potts*), Arthur Chesney (*Charlie*)

Story: Polly Petworthy is in love with Francis Mowbray. He is sophisticated, smart and fashionable; she is an ordinary country girl. So, on their weekend together at a fashionable resort, she pretends to be all cocktails, crepe-de-chine, and gin fizzes. The same resort welcomes a tailor who is pretending to be a famous explorer and two light-hearted lovers, Rikki and Mitzi, who perpetually misunderstand each other. The happy ending eventually arrives, delayed by Rikki's plans to help Polly's deception – plans which cause him trouble with Mitzi, his own lady love.

Notes: This was an English version of the Hungarian musical success "Zsakbamacska" by Mihaly Eisemann and Ladislaus Szilagy. It had been a big success in Budapest and also in Vienna as "Katz im Sack". Specially adapted for England, it featured two Hungarian stars, Magda Kun and Steve Geray. In spite of great praise for Louise Browne and the visiting Hungarians, the show only achieved a seven and a half week run.

SHE SHALL HAVE MUSIC

London run: Saville Theatre, August 2nd (72 Performances)

Music: Christopher Fry & Monte Crick

Lyrics: Ronald Frankau & Christopher Fry

Book: Frank Eyton

Director: Herbert Bryan

Choreographer: Irene Kensington & Max Rivers

Musical Director: Percival Mackey

Producer: Roy Limbert

Cast: Fred Conyngham (*Boyd Whitby*),
Kenneth Kove (*Ambrose Pilkington*), Jean Colin (*Jill Rivers*),
Rita Page (*Peggy Rivers*), Reginald Purdell (*Freddie Baines*),
Viola Tree (*Josephine Browne*), June Radbourne (*Principal Dancer*)



Fred Conyngham

Story: Boyd Whitby, a famous crooner who has escaped to a seaside hotel to avoid his fans, persuades his secretary, Ambrose Pilkington, to exchange identities for a while. The pursuers include Jill and Peggy Rivers, two young sisters from a Bond Street gramophone shop who have pursued the crooner, hoping to get him to agree to a personal appearance; Freddie Baines, a would-be song-writer; and Josephine Browne, a man-hungry old maid.

Notes: Mixed in the middle of this Prince Charming/Dandini plot was a curious extended dance sequence consisting of five or more set-pieces to music by classical composers. It did not go down well and after the first few weeks Archie Pitt (one-time husband of Gracie Fields) was called in to re-stage and re-shape the show. The new version opened took over on September 26th – but the whole show was taken off one week later.

MERRIE ENGLAND (1st Revival)

London run: Prince's Theatre, September 6th (187 Performances)

Music: Edward German

Book & Lyrics: Basil Hood

Director: William J. Wilson

Musical Director: Herman Finck

Producer: R. Claud Jenkins

Cast: Enid Cruickshank (*Queen Elizabeth*), Joseph Hislop (*Walter Raleigh*),
Nancy Fraser (*Bessie*), Edgar Owen (*Earl of Essex*),
Walter Passmore (*Walter Wilkins*)



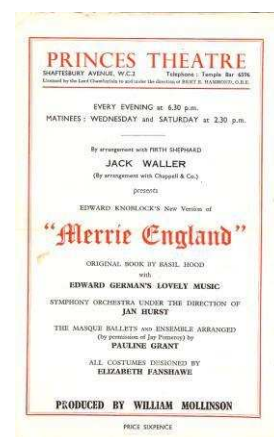
Joseph Hislop

Songs: O peaceful England, The Yeomen of England, Dan Cupid hath a Garden., Love is Meant to Make Us Glad, When Cupid First this Old World Trod, Every Jack Must Have His Jill

Story: The patriotic story concerns love and rivalries at the court of Queen Elizabeth I, when a love letter sent by Sir Walter Raleigh to one of Queen Elizabeth's Ladies in Waiting, Bessie Throckmorton, ends up in the hands of the queen. This was a sunny depiction of England in the days of "Good Queen Bess".

Notes: It opened at the Savoy Theatre on April 2nd 1902 and ran for 120 performances, closing on 30 July 1902. The piece then toured, but returned to the Savoy on November 24th 1902 for a further 56 performances, ending on 17 January 1903. This first revival was notable for the star performance by the Scots tenor Joseph Hislop. The part of Bessie was played by Nancy Fraser – the daughter of Agnes Fraser who was the original Bessie 32 years earlier. This revival ran until February 16th 1935.

Original London run: Savoy, April 1902



YES, MADAM?

London run: London Hippodrome, September 27th (302 performances)

Music: Jack Waller & Joseph Tunbridge

Lyrics: R.P. Weston & Bert Lee

Book: R.P. Weston, Bert Lee & K.T.G. Browne

Director-Choreographer: Ralph Reader

Musical Director: Joseph Tunbridge

Producer: Jack Waller

Cast: Bobby Howes (*Bill*), Binnie Hale (*Sally*), Wylie Watson (*Mr Peabody*), Bertha Belmore (*Miss Peabody*), Billy Leonard (*Tony Tolliver*), Vera Pearce (*Pansy Beresford*), Winifred Izzard, Pearl Greene, Lawrence Barclay, Arthur Bentley, Harcourt Brooke, Robert Greig, Jack Vyvyan.

Songs: Dreaming a Dream, Too Many Outdoor Sports, I'm Afraid of Girls, What are you Going to Do?, Sitting Beside of You, Czechoslovakian Love

Story: Bill Quinton and Sally Ganthony are cousins who have been left a legacy – but there are some strange conditions. Before they get the money they are obliged to spend two months working in “service” – to see how the poorer people live, and therefore learn the true value of money. They end up skivvying for the button-manufacturer, Peabody and his bossy dragon of a sister. If they fail to keep the job for the necessary period, then the money goes to Tony Tolliver. Naturally Tony does everything he can to make them fail. Mr Peabody is standing for election as an MP and needs to retrieve some indiscreet letters he sent to the lusty actress, Pansy Beresford. Bill is sent to achieve this, but it all goes horribly wrong. However, by the time the curtain falls, Tony Tolliver ends up in the arms of Pansy, Bill and Sally end up with the money and in each other's arms, and Mr Peabody can safely face the voters.

Notes: K.T.G. Browne's novel had already been turned into a 1933 non-musical film starring Harold French, and now it was further adapted into a musical specially tailored for Bobby Howes and Binnie Hale. Following its successful run the show toured the provinces for almost two years and was eventually made into yet another film – this time a musical “film of the show” with much of the original cast, but with Diana Churchill replacing Binnie Hale.



Photo by Stage Photo Co

Leslie Henson & Heather Thatcher

LUCKY BREAK

London run: Strand Theatre, October 2nd (198 performances)

Music: Harry Archer

Book & Lyrics: Douglas Furber & Harlan Thompson

Director: Leslie Henson & William Mollison

Choreographer: Buddy Bradley & Fred A. Leslie

Musical Director: Debroy Somers

Producer: Leslie Henson & Frith Shephard

Cast: Leslie Henson (*Tommy Turtle*), David Hutcheson (*Paul Turpin*), Adele Dixon (*Geraldine*), Sydney Fairbrother (*Mrs Flower*), Alethea Orr (*Mrs James*), June Clyde (*Jessie*), Heather Thatcher (*Juliet Pierce*), Bertram Wallis (*William Pierce*), Richard Hearne (*Wilkins*)

Story: Tommy Turtle and Paul Turpin are two impecunious young men living rent-free in a luxury flat used by a German antique furniture dealer as a showcase for his

goods. Their lady-friends know nothing of their real financial position, and complications arise when Geraldine, Paul's fiancée, and her fearsome mother Mrs Flower turn up at the same time as Mrs James and her daughter, Jessie, who are potential furniture clients. Even more problems arise when Juliet Pierce, pursued by her jealous husband, William come onto the scene, which includes a divan bed which folds up into the wall – full or empty – and a troupe of chorus girls who come tapping out of a trick bookcase.

Notes: Based on the American show “Little Jessie James” by Harlan Thompson and Harry Archer, this had been “Anglicised”. Leslie Henson was the undoubted star of this musical farce, but there was much praise for the hilarious acrobatics of Richard Hearne. No one questioned why a troupe of dancing girls should periodically appear inside a first-floor apartment!

BY APPOINTMENT

London run: New Theatre, October 11th (28 performances)

Music: Kennedy Russell

Lyrics: Arthur Stanley & Grace Vernon

Book: Frederick Jackson

Director: Frederick Jackson

Producer: Maurice Productions Ltd

Cast: Charles Mayhew (*Prince Regent*),

Maggie Teyte (*Mrs Fitzherbert*),

Gavin Gordon (*Beau Brummell*),

Frederick Ranalow (*Wattles*),

Vivienne Chatteron (*Cicely*),

Anne Ziegler (*Hon Georgina Bellair*)

Songs: Hold Me in Your Heart, An Old Man's Darling, I Was Thinking of You, Dancing on Air, White Roses, Ah Me I can't Remember.

Story: Set in the city of Bath, this was another Regency romance dealing with the love affair between the Prince Regent and Mrs Fitzherbert, urged on by Beau Brummell. A secondary love story involved Wattles and Cicely, a pair of middle-aged lovers.

Notes: Maggie Teyte's long-overdue return to the light-operatic stage made this an eagerly-awaited production. However, it turned out to have a ponderous book, far too little for Maggie Teyte to sing, and what appeared to be a rather sparing budget for costumes and scenery. It lasted just over three weeks. One of the smaller roles was played by Anne Ziegler, making her West End debut. Within a few years she would marry Webster Booth and together as the "Sweethearts in Song" they would become the most famous and popular of all British musical performers.



Maggie Teyte



Photo by Stage Photo Co

JILL DARLING

London run: Saville Theatre,

December 19th

(242 performances)

*Arthur Riscoe &
Frances Day*

JILL DARLING

London run: Saville Theatre, December 19th (242 performances)

Music: Vivian Ellis

Lyrics: Desmond Carter

Book: Marriott Edgar

Director: William Mollinson

Choreographer: Frederick Lord

Musical Director: Francis M. Collinson

Producer: Jack Eggar Ltd

Cast: Arthur Riscoe (*Pendleton Brooks/Jack Crawford*),
Frederick Lloyd (*Colonel Crawford*), Frances Day (*Jill Sonning*),
Gus Sharland (*Police Sergeant*), John Mills (*Bobby Jones*),
Louise Browne (*April Crawford*), Teddie St Denis (*Jean*).



Songs: Dancing With a Ghost, Pardon My English, We'll Lay Our Heads Together, I'll Do The Most Extraordinary Things, Nonny-Nonny-No, I'm On A See-Saw, A Flower for You, In Budapest, Bats in the Belfry.

Story: Pendleton Brooks is the prohibition candidate for Parliament – but immediately prior to a vital public meeting, he gets accidentally drunk on eau-de-cologne. Luckily Jack Crawford, son of the crusty Colonel Crawford, bears an uncanny resemblance to the tipsy Pendleton, and is cajoled into impersonating the would-be M.P. In a double masquerade, Jack, pretending to be someone else, meets up with Jill, an English girl pretending to be an Hungarian cabaret star. Their madcap adventures even include spending a night in prison, under the watchful eye of a Police Sergeant, sharing a cell with Bobby Jones and April Crawford, a pair of young lovers caught up in the mayhem. Adding to the overall mix-up are Sir Timothy and Bessie Bunting,

Notes: This show had undertaken a four-month provincial tour earlier in the year. However, in spite of its public success, it had not been the happiest of productions. The writers and the star had wanted Frances Day to repeat her earlier teaming with Arthur Riscoe, but the producers insisted on Betty Ann Davies for the role. Half-way through the tour Betty Ann Davies was replaced by Valerie Hay, and the show finished its planned schedule. Arthur Riscoe wanted to revive the show for London, and this time Vivian Ellis refused permission unless Frances Day was engaged to play the female lead. With a new backer and management team, Frances Day was engaged and Vivian Ellis re-wrote much of the show, adding new numbers and adding an Hungarian-accented sub-plot to suit Frances Day's abilities. The new backer insisted that his wife, Teddie St Denis, should be featured in the show, so a new part was created and she was given a new song "Bats in the Belfry". All this trauma proved worthwhile, and the show settled in for a successful and long run.
