Met Theatre Changes Into Movie for Colored

The Met Theatre, located at North and Pennsylvania Aves., operated by the Met Amusements, Inc., will re-open next Thursday, March 24, catering to colored patronage and featuring first run pictures produced by some of the major Hollywood studios.

The theatre has a seating capacity of 1500 and is modern in every respect, including lounges, concessions, etc., and will employ an entirely colored personnel.

The opening double features will be "The Boy With Green Hair," in technicolor, co-starring Pat O'Brien, Robert Ryan and Dean Stockwell as "the boy," and "Western Heritage," a thrill-packed Western, with Tim Holt featured in the leading role, plus selected shorts and latest newsreels.

"Cover Up" Coming

Among other coming attractions are "Tarzan's Magic Fountain," "Cover Up," starring William Bendix, Dennis O'Keefe and Barbara Britton; "Every Girl Should Be Married," with Cary Grant and Diana Lynn; "Siren of Atlantis," and others.

The theatre will maintain a double feature policy at the present time with popular prices prevailing. Admission for evenings and all day Saturday and Sunday will be 50 cents; matinees, 35 cents, and 20 cents for children at all times, according to the management.

Also included in the policy will be the showing of the best pictures obtainable, and the maintenance of good order at all times.

This will be the second theatre in the city to be operated by the company for colored patronage. The other house is the Radio in East Baltimore.

Urylee Leonardos Hailed as Carmen

DETROIT (GNS)—Urylee Leonardos was acclaimed by critics and audiences for her superb performance in the title role of "Carmen Jones" here at the Civic Auditorium.

A protege of Hattie King-Reavis, executive secretary of the ANT, and having been trained for the Carmen role by Abbie Mitchell, Urylee excels in showmanship, talent, training, personality and the ability to give a convincing performance.

As soon as she returns to New York City where she resides, the singer will make an Eastern concert tour.

Concords and Discords

By W. LLEWELLYN WILSON

Morgan State College's Choral Union, under the direction of J. O. B. Moseley, acting head of the department of music, gave an excellent program at the Polytechnic Auditorium, during the sessions of the Eastern Educator's Convention held here recently.

This program was one of a number of stellar features which were presented for the benefit of the 4,000 delegates who came from all points in the East to take part in this convention held here for the first time in the history of Baltimore.

This vocal unit is fast becoming one of the best mixed choral groups to be found locally.

Publicizing the College

It is doing much to bring Morgan State College favorably to the attention of the general public.

The Choral Union has given concerts in a number of local churches and in nearby communities, which include the adjacent States of Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.

This group, just before leaving for a tour of nearby colleges, including Virginia Union, West Virginia, Southern Maryland and Bluefield College, sang at Enon Baptist Church on Men's Day.

Featured as violin soloist will be Matthew Fraling, who doubles as first tenor in the vocal ensemble.

Mr. Fraling will probably be remembered for his excellent portrayal of The Lame Boy in Joseph Clokey's "The Pied Piper," while a member of Douglass High School.

Thrilling Dram Now Playing Royal

Errol Flynn and Raymond Burr in a tense dramatic scene from the action-packed technicolor epic "New Adventures of Don Juan," now on the Royal screen. "Highway 13," a gripping thrill film, is the added attraction.

"Belle Starr" Withdrawn by Movie After Complaint

Scenes in Story of Bandit Queen Cited as of "Racially Inflammatory Character"

"Belle Starr," Twentieth Century-Fox's historical filmarization of the famous bandit queen, has been withdrawn from its scheduled showings at two local theatres, following a complaint this week by the local NAACP, which termed the picture of a "racially inflammatory character."

According to the request of the NAACP, H. B. Hornstein, head of a chain of four theatres, withdrew the picture from further showing after a three-day scheduled run in one of his theatres.

Requests Complete Withdrawal

In addition, Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, president of the NAACP, wrote P. Spyros Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, requesting a withdrawal of the film "in the interest of common good."

The picture, based on the Civil War, is replete with distasteful racial designations, i.e., "darky," Ethiopian elephant," and various racial attitudes . . . newly freed slaves praising the woman who wanted to keep them in slavery.

Serves No Good End

"Certainly at a time when all over the world we are emphasizing democracy's inherent respect for the human dignity and worth of the individual, and the democratic ideals of freedom, there is no place in our nation for the sowing of racial antagonisms which serve no good end, but which disrupt the harmony and unity necessary to help build a lasting peace.

"Therefore, we are writing to your company to earnestly request the withdrawal of this most undesirable film from circulation, in the interest of common good."

"Belle Starr" is an adaptation by Lewis Herman of the book by Oliver Trbat' is to the Jewish Americans." the letter said.

Responding to Complaint

Interviewed on Wednesday by this writer, Mr. Hornstein said: "It came as a surprise to me to know that the picture was offensive in any manner. It came under our regular booking, and since it had been shown for a week on the Avenue (Pennsylvania), and in East Baltimore for a week, it didn't appear that it had any unpleasant scenes.

"However," he said, "I am always responsive to the expressed likes and dislikes of our clientele. I considered the picture an historical document, but the public is the one to please. So I have canceled the picture from further showing."

Rejected Other Pictures

The theatre management also revealed that it refused to show "Song of the South" and "Forever Amber" because of adverse criticisms that had been raised against the two films. "However," he said, "they were shown here in colored houses without any outward protests, although they had been severely censured in some other places."

The film co-starred Gene Tierney and Randolph Scott, and tells the story of the notorious bandit queen, which includes an historical scene of the South's surrender at Appomatox.—E. B. REA.

AFM Earmarks Free Music Cash

NEW YORK — The American Federation of Musicians has earmarked $1,400,212 to finance its annual program of free music programs in schools, institutions, parks and civic centers.

Nat. Theatre Bill Sleeping

WASHINGTON—(Atlas) — Rep Jacob Javits (R.—N.Y.), reports that the majority of the entertainment world is backing the legislation, which would call upon the President to convene a meeting of entertainment leaders to discuss the establishment of a national theatre, opera and ballet.

Robeson's "Othello"

NEW YORK — Shakespeare makes his debut on Long Playing records when Columbia issues "Othello," with Paul Robeson as part of its LP list for March.

In the popular field, Billie Holiday is featured with Teddy Wilson's orchestra in a collection of songs now available on a single 10-inch LP disc.

RADIO

929 N. EDEN STREET ORLEANS 9714

East Baltimore's Leading Colored Playhouse

WEEK OF MARCH 20, 1949

SUNDAY-MONDAY-TUESDAY MARCH 20-21-22

"GUNG-HO" starring Randolph Scott, Grace McDonald

— Also —

"GAS HOUSE KIDS GO WEST" features the Dead End Kids

PLUS LATEST NEWS LEE BROWN'S ORCHESTRA

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY MARCH 23-24

"Road to the Big House" with John Shelton, Ann Doran

— Also —

"CRY WOLF" with Errol Flynn, Barbara Stanwyck

PLUS LATEST NEWS "MARCH OF TIME"

FRIDAY-SATURDAY MARCH 25-26

"THE COBRA STRIKES" with Sheila Ryan, Leslie Brooks

— Also —

"Lone Star Pioneers" with Bill Elliott, Dorothy Gulliver

PLUS LATEST NEWS "PEPITAS SERENADE"

"OREGON TRAIL" Chapter No. 14

COMING:

"UNKNOWN ISLAND" with Richard Denning, Virginia Grey also "LONE STAR TRAIL" featuring Johnny Mack Brown, Tex Ritter

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GROSSMAN'S DRUG STORE, Monroe and Pratsey Sts.

KEYSTONE PHARMACY, North and Druid Hill Aves.

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HENDIN'S, 1725 Penna. Ave.

VALENTINE'S, 1906 McCullah St.

GREB'S GROCERY, Presbury and McKean

ELMER LIEPMAN'S, 1705 Penna. Ave.

DOLLY DIMPLE, 1729 Penna. Ave.

KERMISCH'S, 1138 Penna. Ave.

East Baltimore

KIRSON'S, Central Ave. and Gay St.

VILLAGE DRUG STORE, Day Village

CHICK WEBB CENTER, 600 Blk. N. Eden St.

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See the Big Page Announcement in Today's AFRO

Popponesett Pines on Cape Cod

Enjoy your vacation on a beautiful lake in the woods on the Cape. Swimming, Boating, Fishing. Lake is well stocked with fish.

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MRS. WALLACE E. MOSSITT, at Bonnet Street Mashpee, Mass.

Get Up Nights?

Don't let Backache, Rheumatic Pains, Nervousness, Getting Up Nights, Leg Pains, Burning Passages, Swollen Ankles, or Circles Under Eyes, due to non-organic and non-systemic Kidney and Bladder Troubles, make you feel old and miserable. Instead, try Cystex. Usually the first dose of Cystex starts to work immediately helping nature clean out excess acids and wastes which often cause many pains, aches, soreness and stiffness. Get Cystex at druggists. Satisfaction or money back guarantee.

Pennsylvania Avenue

By E. B. REA

LOCAL MUSICIANS NUMBER AMONG their group several stars who learned their showmanship from Lionel Hampton, who brings his band and an allstar show to participate in the AFRO Gala beige April 1, at the Coliseum. Lionel, too, can look back over his musical trail and say, "Somebody taught me the boogie beat." He first played bass drum under Roger N. Clark Smith as a schoolboy in Chicago. His first pro job was as drummer with Paul Howard's Quality Serenaders. Then he joined Les Hite. After this, he worked as a single in a small game in Los Angeles in 1930, he joined Benny Goodman's Trio, making it a quartet with Benny, Teddy Wilson and Gene Krupa. He worked with the group four years, and in 1940 formed his own 17-piece band which will be nine years old in September.

HAMPTON A GREAT SHOWMAN drummer with unlimited enthusiasm for the drums . . . plays brilliant vibraharp and piano . . . medium height, loose limbed, nervous, and eternally agitated . . . always wants to be on the move, doing something preferably playing his instruments, raps, bangs, taps, whistles and booms are his stock in trade. You know the man is there. He is mean, lyrical, primitive, soul-shaking, rhythmic, romantic, bombastic, boom-boom-pop-boom. That's the Hampton beat and I know . . . so, don't miss that fashion show.

WHEN T. SHELTON COLE AND ORCHESTRA formed their Encore Contracting Company they laughed and said, "Those fellows will be back in awhile anyway." It has turned out that these two contracting jobs completed a number of best designed and best decorated nightclub lounges in this city. Ike Dixon's new Lounge, just off the corner of Druid Hill Ave. and Brooks Lane is a gem of a group of frustrated Demorcats . . . and admittedly a great one . . . under a wicked hammer-and-sickle. Supposed that I can't beat him, jive him.

It seems as if a new club has been born . . . The Jive-Ocrats.

JOHN WHIRLEY, Club Ubangi has well go shopping for a music cool combo and a chirper to add to his Television Room . . . the price-angle can be made square. Hewell be handicapped in a place recently located Avenue spot. The weekend entertainment dollar of Gamby's are packed with top talent . . . Club Elegant "spiking" its mid-week lull with a talent show on Wednesday nights.

THE STAR RESTAURANT, 1500 block, undergoing a complete renovation, new front, et al., is operated by Gee Keokene. Gee a native of Canton China, has been in America 41 years and has been at this one spot 10 years. Victoria Jane of 1205 W. Franklin St. waitress here, has been with it for 14 years, under three proprietors . . . George Harrison, well known along the Strolls, has a Valet Shop at 2020 Westwood Ave.

NOTES TO THE LADIES—The "Pyramid Club" has been outlawed but not the Pyramid Bar-do, which is scheduled to become a racing fad. Face Mabel Keitz, Comedy Club waitress, who sports a "bun" . . . Then for the teen-agers the "sm-oo-look" is replacing the "new look," according to the Bobbie Fashion Board, a group of fashion-minded teenagers in Chicago, who recently voted down what they called horrid, ten-like styles! They are banning the overstuffed bosom, the pinched-in waist, Joe look and the borrowed-from-brother look.

"GRANDMA PLAYS THE NUMBERS . . . so, shouted "Roy Rogers" from the stage to the Royal Theatre all week. Every time "Roy" would ride across the screen, where grandma gave out "369." The audience would grab their pencils . . . Grandpa says, "Shucks . . . Miranda . . . It's 317." More pencils . . . Four winners breezed home in the Thoroughbred Race on Monday, earning two tickets each to the MB Wines' Jackpot Quiz at the Royal.

LET'S SEE WHO'LL BE THE LUCKY people this Monday, calling me at Mulberry 6015, the nearest to, or on the dot at 2:10 p.m. There'll be more tickets to the Thursday night jackpotaquiz.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS were Miss Jeanne Young, Mesdames Mabel Madison, Alberta Gardner and H. B. McDonald.

TRY THIS TIP for "Sing It Again" on Saturday night . . . Georgia. Georgia I've been thinking I hear something in the air. Red Light, green light keep on blinking, cross the sea and I'll be there. He leads a double life for your life's married but he's single. Yes, "It's the name of a town, a river and a riddle." Could it be Col. Charles Augustus Lindberg . . . "Stop the Music" Sunday night is definitely "Paramount on Parade".

MICHAELL GRAHAM, Georgia's Glamour Boy, and his Washingtonians will make up the new show at Gamby's next Friday night, March 25. Featured will be emcee, Hazel Knight, D.C.'s wonderful of '48; Nudie Williams, scat singer and dancer; Delores Proctor, Latin shaker; William Gatewood, the winner of Lionel Hampton's Applejack contest, with Reuben Wood's Ambassadors still holding the crown.

THE THREE STRIKES and a Miss, holdover at the Casino Club a fifth week, check out on the 26th for an extended summer swing around Atlantic City. Flink Johnson, the soloist ace, is set here, but solid Bozeman Ike Dixon is still hospitalized, but doing nicely.

TELEVISION CHATTER—Avenue fans prefer out-of-town wrestling to those shindigs at the Coliseum . . . Boxing fans like St. Nicholas Arena and Madison Square Garden bouts better than D.C. Baseball . . . Arthur Godfrey and Ed Sullivan's "Toast of the Town" their favorite show bills . . . TOP FIRST RUN PICTURES of the current week . . . 3 Godfathers," "Pirate" and "Fighting Man of the Plains" . . . Ingrid Bergman in "Joan of Arc" . . . Ronald Colman in "Talisman" . . . Ann Sheridan in "Woman Hunt" . . . Dennis O'Keefe in "Walk Softly, Stranger" . . . Gene Tierney in "Whirlpool" . . . Ginger Rogers in "Carnival" . . . Lucille Ball in "Sorrowful Jones" . . . Bob Hope in "Sorrowful Jones" . . . Bing Crosby in "Top Man" . . . Ann Blyth in "Top Man" . . . Dick Haymes in "Top Man" . . . Ann Blyth in "Mildred Pierce" . . . Joan Crawford in "Mildred Pierce" . . . Jane Wyman in "Johnny Belinda" . . . Lew Ayres in "Johnny Belinda" . . . Ronald Reagan in "Johnny Belinda