

I Dare Say--

One Touch of Nature Makes Actors Human Beings

BY FLORENCE FISHER PARRY

There are certain actors and actresses who are endowed with great talent yet fail to exude warmth and friendliness and establish that Common Touch without which their performances, however noteworthy, fail to move the heart.

And there are those who, because of their honest love of human beings, instantly create an affectionate rapport between themselves and their delighted audiences, who feel at home and comfortable in their presence. If they were to meet these stars face to face the playgoers would not be tongue-tied and self-conscious as they would be with the former, but would have a happy, natural time and leave with a proud glow in their hearts.

Joe E. Brown possesses this great gift of sympathy; his whole week at the Nixon was an old-home gathering. Eddie Center has it. You sense that these men are others and family men first and actors afterwards. And Mary Martin has it. Oh what a lovely girl is she! Tallulah Bankhead has it; not to everyone, but to many friends outside the theater who give her the predilection of herself. She has many many favorites of mine, but I think you know already who they would likely be; for yourself have felt their friendliness and generosity reach to you across the footlights. They are the saviors of themselves. And the more they spend, the more they are repaid.

A World Apart

But there are not nearly enough of these human beings in the theater. Too many of our big stars retire into their own little light special world of the stage and become such creatures from those outside their sphere until they develop an indifference to them as well as almost to themselves.

They are bored and condescending with the very ones who make up their theater. And this loneliness, this "apartness" sooner or later carries them into their art and robs it of its radiance and warmth. I know a number of stars in the theater whose talents have stopped just this side of greatness and the reason they have not attained the full stature of their talent is that they have shut themselves away from everyone except their own little special professional circle. And I don't care how great may be the gift of an actor or a painter or a musician or a writer, he can't draw his life from human beings and the wide world they live in. It grows cold and remote and loses its luster like



a diamond whose facets become dull, lacking the manifold reflections from which it must draw its beauty.

Fate's Questionnaire

A member of the time, some years ago, when an actress, now old and forgotten, came to Pittsburgh to appear at a second-rate theater in a showy play with shoulder support. But I remembered her as she once was, a first-rate actress on Broadway.

"My dear Mrs. Parry: I find your interview very interesting. I am very glad that you are so interested in the theater. I am sure that I will not have time to see anyone not of the theater."

Kennedy Park

In Full Swing

Kennedy Park is in full swing, continuing the Sunday-only basis that will prevail until the season begins.

West View Books

Tech Tartans

The play-reading Carnegie Tech Tartans, led by Benack, will take over the show at the Talcott Temple amphitheater in West View Park today in the afternoon and evening.

Autry Flies Cast To Location Site

HOLLYWOOD—Gene Autry, the cowboy star of the Fox-Hollywood, flew the entire company to their location site at Pinecroft, California, 125 miles east of Los Angeles, on the San Bernardino Mountains.

Sally Rand Stars At the Casino

Sally Rand, famous burlesque dancer, opens a week's engagement at the Casino tonight with a mid-night show.

This will be the first appearance for the "First Lady of the Funnies" in Pittsburgh in over six years. Miss Rand recently completed a 27 weeks' tour of nine night clubs and theaters throughout the United States and Canada. She comes direct to the Casino from the Grand Theater, St. Louis.

Portrait of Jennie

JENNIFER JONES Joseph COTTEN

THURSDAY!

GOODMAN-LIND-CAREY

BUHL PLANETARIUM

FORECASTING THE WEATHER

Dead End Kids

Mob Town

FLAMING ADVENTURE

SCANDALOUS ROMANCE!

Humble Start

HOLLYWOOD—Brodick Crawford, whose very polished acting has been in "Night Unto Night," began his working career as a seaman on the tanker, salary \$15.00 a month!

Missed Calling

HOLLYWOOD—Craig Stevens, handsome featured actor, was once a dental student at the University of Kansas.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA PREMIERE THUR., MAY 12

WINNER OF 2 ACADEMY AWARDS!

Red Seas

LOEW'S RITZ, 118th St. Ave.

CONNECTICUT YANKEE

STANLEY

MAGNIFICENT OPERETAS

STARTING ON JUNE 6

With Broadway's Smash Hit

"SONG OF NORWAY"

THE IMMORTAL MELODIES OF EDVARD GRIEG

CIVIC LIGHT OPERA

Repertory 1949

The FULTON

THE PATHEON

SYMPHONIE PASTORALE

HARRIS THEATRE

WARNER THEATRE

WARNER THEATRE

WARNER THEATRE

WARNER THEATRE

Shows to See And When

STANLEY—"Flaming Road"
J. F. HARRIS—"Knock On Any Door"
PENN—"Portrait of Jennie"
FULTON—"The Flinderses"
WARNER—"Tulsa"
ART CINEMA—"Lymbombic Fandango"
SENATOR—"Mr. Belvedere Goes to College"
RITZ—"Little Women"
BARRY—"Mob Town"

IT'S BLOSSOM TIME AT THE NIXON

OPEN EVERY DAY BUT MONDAY
STARTING MONDAY, MAY 14th

DOROTHY LEWIS

A SPECTACULAR ICE REVUE
Glide The Globe
Featuring JUNE AROLD BUDDY LEWIS, ED LEARY THE LOVELY LEWIS LADIES
Plus DANCING AL MARSICO
NIXON THEATRE

PARADE of 1949

SPARKLING STARS FROM STAGE AND SCREEN PLUS REPUTED'S MOST FAMOUS SONGS AND DAUGHTERS!

George Jaffe

PROUDLY PRESENTS
FRANKIE RAND
The Incomparable - The World Famous
FAN DANCER

CASINO Burlesque

The Girl Who Landed a Breeze into a Torpedo
Freddie Lewis JOEY COWAN Barbara STUART Marcia EDGINGTON
MIDNIGHT SHOW TONIGHT