

DRAFT STANDARD CONTRACT FOR PLAYS AND MUSICAL PLAYS AT PROVINCIAL AND SUBURBAN THEATRES MANCHESTER MEETING

To the Editor of The Stage. Sir, We attended the provincial Equity meeting at the Midland Hotel, Manchester, last Thursday. Everyone within a fifty-mile radius had an invitation to attend, with expenses paid. It was astonishing to us how very few touring members of the profession were there.

I think we can say that if we had not attended ourselves the draft contract which was suggested would definitely have gone through. Anyone who has seen this contract must realize what an extremely bad one it is. We were very strongly opposed to many points, and through our efforts, many amendments were made.

Failure to Produce.—The compensation payable to the artist under the contract put on, except under conditions beyond the control of the manager, is a week's salary in addition to the rehearsal money.

Broadsiding.—When a play is publicly broadcast on television, one half of the amount received by the manager must be divided equally among the cast in the same ratio as the artist's salary bears to the total salaries.

Transport.—The contract requires the manager to provide steamship berths on sea passages at night over four hours, also incidental transport when crossing London and other centres.

It is hoped that the draft contract, with any necessary amendments, will be adopted so that the steps can be taken to put into operation as early as possible.

ALFRED M. WALL said that for a long time the provinces had been trying to get an agreed contract, but some managers were difficult and the theatre generally had been in the doldrums. Now, after three years, they had a draft contract. They knew it was not perfect, but they had to face facts. Under present conditions high salaries were not possible in the provinces.

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THE STAGE

"THEN AND AGAIN"

Then, he said was a great worker for British Equity. The contract is not designed to apply to pantomimes, Christmas plays, operas, or repertory productions.

A BAD CONTRACT

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PHYLIS BOURKE, GRETA BUCHANAN, "Rose Marie" Company, Bristol Rooms, April 24, 1939.

To the Editor of The Stage. Sir, It was unreasonable to suppose that those attending the Manchester meeting could realize all that the draft contract meant to actors and actresses.

WALTER PLINGE Leeds, April 22, 1939

THE TORCH

"Carrie and Cleopatra"

On Tuesday, April 25, 1939, was presented at the Torch, S.W., a play by H. E. Bates, entitled "Carrie and Cleopatra."

Ursula Stephens, Hilda Bruce-Potter, Fanny Carr, Charles Lewis, Arthur Young, Frank Lewis, Alexander Archdale, Blanche Lewis, Elizabeth Wood, First Workman, Clifford Brierley, Second Workman, Howard Russell, and Miss Wood.

It takes some little time to discover the relation of the title to the play, but after a while it becomes apparent that Cleopatra and Ursula are synonymous, the former name having clung after a fancy-dress dance in early youth.

When questions and comments were invited a number of actresses and actresses put forward objections and asked for further information on various clauses of the contract.

The chairman proposed the following motion: That the suggestion for a Provincial Theatre Council is approved. The draft Provincial Contract is also approved, subject to the condition that where a member's salary is higher than the minimum it shall continue at the higher rate, and also that the other matters raised should be duly considered.

NORWICH PRODUCTION

On Monday, April 24, 1939, at the Norwich, Norfolk, Phyllis Neilson-Terry and Heron Carvic presented a light comedy, by Elizabeth Wilson and Broughty Ferry, entitled: "Then and Again."

This light comedy of life in the house of Noel Blythe, a young doctor who has just come to the city to study for his degree and assistant practitioner, possesses only a wisp of a plot.

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LONDON SUMMARY

Performances in London, April 27, 1939. Dates of production are given where they have been previously performed, either in London or in the Provinces, are marked thus:—

ADDELPHI.—HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY. April 27, 1939, 8:30; mat. 2:30. ALDWYCH.—LITTLE LADY-SHIP. (Trans. from the Lyric, April 17, 1939, 8:30; mat. 2:30.)

AMERSHAM.—THE GATE HERE. VUE. March 9, 1939, 9; mat. 2:30. APOLLO.—SUGAR LIGHT. Jan. 31, 1939, 8:30; mat. Tues. Sat., 2:30.

CRITERION.—"SUGAR PLUM. March 15, 1939, 8:40; mat. Tues. Sat., 2:30. CROYDON GRAND.—"JOHNIE'S. April 24, 1939, 8:30 and 9:30.

DROUYN LANE.—THE DANCING YEARS. March 23, 1939, 8; mat. Wed. Sat., 2:30. DUCHESS.—THE CORN IS GREEN. Sept. 20, 1938, 8:30; mat. Wed. Sat., 2:30.

EMERALD.—THE WOMEN. April 20, 1939, 8:30; mat. Wed. Thurs., 2:30. EMBASSY.—LARGEST. April 26, 1939, 8:30; mat. Wed. Thurs., 2:30.

GOLDEN GREEN.—ROOM FOR TWO. April 24, 1939, 8:15; mat. Tues. Sat., 2:30. HAYMARKET.—"DESIGN FOR LIVING. April 24, 1939, 8:30; mat. Wed. Sat., 2:30.

KINGSWAY.—WOMAN'S PRIVILEGE. April 19, 1939, 8:30; mat. Tues. Sat., 2:30. LITTLE.—LITTLE REVUE. April 21, 1939, 9; mat. Thurs. Sat., 2:30.

BELFAST

(From Our Own Correspondent) GRAND OPERA HOUSE (R.M.D., Geo. H. J. Margrave; Mus. D., Dudley Hare)—The Belfast A.O.S., under the direction of Madame Drinkwater, occupy the boards. For the first three nights they played "Victory and Her Hussar," and the remainder of the week they stage "The Maid of the Mountains."

ROYAL HIPPODROME (R.M., H. Murray; Mus. Dir., H. Horton) announced a really good comic-entertainment. This house reverts to variety and revue with "Nice People," staged by a really good comic-entertainment. Alan Bailey, Billy Rego and Chas. Stevens are all good comic artists. The charming voice of Frances Hughes is displayed in several numbers.

THE smart straddling of Frank Lees and Lind Joyce is a feature. Issy Bonn also appears.

CASES IN COURT DUDLEY V. EXPRESS PRINTING (ROSSENDALE) LTD., MR. MR. JAMES DUDLEY vs. THE EXPRESS PRINTING CO. LTD. In the King's Bench Division on Monday, April 24, 1939, a summons, which the parties agreed to treat as the hearing of the action, the plaintiff, Ernest Dudley, of Regis Court, Dorset Square, W., was, by consent, directed to serve in conjunction restraining the defendants, Express Printing (Rosendale) Ltd., Roston Street, Walsby, from infringing the plaintiff's copyright in a series of literary sketches or cartoons entitled "Mr. Walker Wants to Know."

MR. H. C. LEON, for Mr. Dudley, said that Mr. Dudley's sketches had been produced by him as they had been recently broadcast and had appeared in the "Daily Express" and "Daily Mirror" under the name of "Mr. Walker Wants to Know."

MR. G. K. McCulloch, for the defendants, agreed to the grant of the injunction and an order for costs against the defendants.

INGOLDSBY CLUB The Ingoldsby Club seems to be one of the few societies able to appreciate its limits and to make the type of play suitable for small theatre production. As a result, the club was successful on Tuesday, April 18, in its presentation of "The Merry Wives of Windsor" with Ingoldsby productions the casting was proficient, and the work of the production was nothing wanting. Hard work from the players combined with natural ability and the forcing points made the production notable.

SENSATIONAL THE CONTINENTAL THEATRE, 10, Tulse Hill, S.W.2. including FAMOUS BALE TROUS, TREVOR BROS., KITTY IRIS, RENEE EDWARDS, H. H. RETTER, etc. VAC. MONDAY NEXT. ALSO 8.15. THIS CITY VARIETIES, LEADS. KIRBY'S FLYING BALLET. AUDITION, SENSATIONAL, etc. "Red Riding Hood," Covent Garden. "Babs in the Wood," Drury Lane. "Peter Whetton," Bootham. "35th Street," A. Midwinter. "The Merry Wives of Windsor," 10, Tulse Hill, S.W.2. Phone: Tulse Hill 5407. SHENTON'S PRINTING WORKS. Tel. 3736, CHELTENHAM, 41 17th, 5,000 Handbills, 100 24 1/2, 10,000 Double Columns, 20 31 6 Cash with Order. Carriage Paid.