SPOKEN DRAMA SILENT

ONLY A FEW PLAYS ON SCHEDULE FOR WEEK IN NEW YORK

Shuberts to Offer New Musical Piece, "Barbara Fritchie"; Cohan is Busy

In addition to "The Pirates of Penzance" the week will bring forth an English comedy called "This Woman Business," due at the Ritz; "Slaves All," formerly called "The Rigordons" and "The Curse," by Edward Percy, at the Bijou, with Lionel Atwill heading the cast, and "The Constant Nymph," scheduled for the Selwyn. In addition, there will be Mlle. Sorel's repertory, composed, however, of familiar plays.

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The Shuberts are about to embark on a musical piece entitled "Barbara Fritchie," and filled, one may assume, with uniforms blue and gray. It will be produced on a scale popularly known as lavish, the idea being to install it in the Century Theatre. Dorothy Donnelly has written the book and the music is Sigmund Romberg's.

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Loss to New York theatres in one day, because the Army-Navy game was played at Chicago this year, is estimated at one million dollars.

"The road is terrible" the agent for George Arliss wired New York from San Francisco. Arliss is playing "Old English" up around Seattle and in eight performances in one week the business totalled nearly $19,000. Yes, "the road is terrible," until you have something or somebody the people want to see.

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Sam Barnard will have a new Hoggenheimer role in a new piece now in rehearsal which will open in Brooklyn December 20. Wanda Lyon will be in the cast.

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After a very successful run "Iolanthe" has closed in New York and the cast is now busy on "The Pirates of Penzance."

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"The Pearl of Great Price" closed in New York after a very brief run.

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Otto Gruger will have the leading role in "Sam Abramovitch" when it opens in New York in another week.

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Helen Ford will have the principal role in "Peggy" which will open in Philadelphia at an early date.

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Jeanne Eagles in "Chicago" will open in Washington in another week. Charles Bickford will be in the cast.

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An approaching novelty is entitled "Ching-A-Ling," a revue in which the players will be Chinese and Japanese.

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George M. Cogan is writing a new play which will likely be titled "The Son of a Gun."

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Fritzi Scheff may be seen on Broadway soon in a new production, "The Dancing Duchess." Sally Ward, the Darling Twins and Handers and Millis will also appear.

-:-

"Yes, Yes, Yvette," just opening in Chicago is the musical version of "Nothing but the Truth" so if you are a Wright Players supporter you'll know what it is all about. Lynne Overman has the leading comic role.

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The Four Marx Brothers, running in Chicago in "The Cocoanuts" for some time will leave there December 18 for the road. They will visit Milwaukee, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Detroit and elsewhere. They will be followed in the Erlanger theatre by "No, No, Nanette."

-:-

Vivienne Segal until recently with "Castles in the Air" and who suddenly retired from the cast opened Tuesday night at the Casino theatre in "The Desert Song." Eddie Buzzell and Pearl Regay are in the cast. The operetta is by Otto Harbach, Oscar Hammerstein 2d and Frank Mandel.

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"Show Boat" will probably be put in rehearsal during the present week.

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Mr. Ziegfeld is getting his "Rio Rita" ready for early production and another called "Betsy" is in rehearsal.

TAKE THREE MONTHS TO MASTER ENGLISH

Natalie Barrache, known as "The most beautiful actress" in Russia, who has just been brought to this country by Richard Rowland, production manager of First National Pictures, under contract to that organization, is determined to beat the record hung up twenty years ago by Nazimova.

Nazimova mastered English, speaking it perfectly, in six months.

Mlle. Barrache is determined to obtain a complete working knowledge of the language in three months. When she arrived on the S. S. Olympic, she spoke only Russian and French. From her experience in Russian films, she believes it is necessary to have a thorough mastery of the language in order to catch the fine shades of a director's ideas. And she does not plan to have either a Russian or a Frenchman as her director.

BESSIE LOVE FINDS TOURISTS HAVE WOES

The "forty-niner" didn't know when he was well off, according to Bessie Love.

Bessie, now playing the feminine lead in "Rubber Tires," which Alan Hale is directing for Cecil B. DeMille, insists that crossing the plains in a covered wagon couldn't have been much worse than traveling the route in a 1910 model automobile. She grants that the "forty niners" had Indians to contend with, but, on the other hand, contends that they didn't have to worry about punctures and boiling radiators.

"Rubber Tires," is being filmed against a background of the "tin can tourists" and the auto camps, being a picturization of the migration of a typical New York family, westward, via the auto camps.

DENISHAWN DANCERS BACK FROM LONG TOUR

The Denishawn company of 26 dancers, with Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shawn at their head, are home from a tour of a year and six months in India, China and Japan. They will give performances on the Pacific coast before returning to the east coast. The Denishawn company spent a month at the Imperial theater of Tokio at the beginning of their tour and played a return engagement. In the interval they spent many weeks in China and five weeks in India. For years Ruth St. Denis has been interested in the spiritual significance underlying oriental dances.

ALICE CAVANAUGH WILL HAVE PEG ROLE IN LAURETTE TAYLOR'S PLAY

There is a play that many have seen and hundreds more are anxious to see "Peg O' My Heart," which in the hands of the Wright Players will be one of the most delightful treats in a brilliant season. Alice Cavanaugh will be seen in the role of Peg and the balance of the cast will have parts to their liking.

J. Hartly Manners wrote "Peg O' My Heart" with a pen sharp with wit and sure aim when he put forth this contribution to the stage.

"Peg O' My Heart," relates the story of a little uncultured Irish girl who leaves her father and her squalid home in New York city and suddenly plunged into the midst of a family of the most exclusive, uncompromising English aristocracy. Her freedom of speech and manner offends the Lady Chichester and her haughty son and daughter, but they consent to keep the girl for a month, in accordance with the provisions of a will of her uncle's, Mrs. Chichester's brother. The Chichester fortunes have been impaired by the failure of a bank and by the terms of the will the one undertaking the upbringing of Peg is to receive a handsome annuity. So, despite her repugnance toward the task, Mrs. Chichester undertakes it for the sake of the family coffers. Peg proves an intractable pupil and longs for the freedom and happiness that was hers in her father's home. Peg doesn't know the conditions of the will. She thinks she is staying on the generosity of her aunt. Then she meets Jerry, the friend of the family, who is an English Lord. Jerry acquires the right to call her peg; he calls to take her to a dance, but is refused consent by the icy Mrs. Chichester. "Well I'm goin', and I want to give you fair warning." She slips out with Jerry. Sneaking in late at night, Peg bumps into Ethel who is about to run away with a married man. She saves Ethel from herself, taking the blame when Mrs. Chichester discovers them both. She finally decides to return to her father when Jerry proposes and is accepted.

—Clegg Studio

ALICE CAVANAUGH

Miss Cavanaugh, charming leading lady with the Wright Players, is here presented as she will appear in her role as Peg in "Peg O' My Heart", the great Laurette Taylor success which will be presented this week at the Weller beginning Monday. The carry-all which Miss Cavanaugh is using as a seat and the dog Michael, are as essential for the role as Peg's large hat. You'll notice the dog, Michael, well, he ain't. "Michael" was borrowed for the occasion from Dr. E. H. Callender and is a wire haired terrier, just as the part calls for.

GIRLS SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE 18 INCH WAISTS ANY MORE

No Floradoras in This Corsetless Age; Waists Now 24 Inches, Director Finds

Wanted—Six girls who:
Have long hair—
Slim waists—
Are tall—
Well rounded—
And beautiful—

Search has begun for six girls of the type that went out of fashion with mutton-legged sleeves, keywind watches and ankle-length skirts to appear as members of the famous Floradora sextette for a sequence in "Casey at the Bat," Hector Turnbull's Paramount comedy featuring Wallace Beery.

Although more than fifty aspirants have already been interviewed and measured, only one has been found eligible. She is Iris Stuart, the magazine cover girl of the screen who recently completed a supporting role in Bebe Daniels' "Stranded in Paris." The chief objection to most of the applicants, it is said, is due to the size of their waists. In that the Floradora sextette made its appearance at the time of the "hour-glass" figure, none of the waists of its feminine members measured more than eighteen inches. Few girls of the present corsetless era have waistlines of less than twenty-four inches, the casting office has discovered.

Aside from Beery, other members in the cast of "Casey at the Bat," which is being directed by Monte Brice, are Ford Sterling, Sterling Holloway, Zasu Pitts and "Speck" O'Donnell.

Here's Line or So 'Bout the Pictures Comin' Next Week

The managers are certainly offering a tempting menu for you in their bookings for the week ahead. Old favorite stars with some of the best books and plays of the season. Look 'em over:

LIBERTY

THE SEA WOLF—Vital and faithful picturization of Jack London's most celebrated story with a famous cast, including Ralph W. Ince as "Wolf" Larsen. Claire Adams, Theodore Von Eltz, Saint Edwards and Mitchell Lewis in prominent roles. Fierce passions at war on a stormy sea.

THE LAST FRONTIER—Epical romance of the plains by Courtney Ryley Cooper, featuring William Boyd, Marguerite De La Motte, J. Farrell McDonald and Jack Hoxie as Buffalo Bill. Other players are Junior Coghlan, Mitchell Lewis, Gladys Brockwell. Tremendous story of the west in the making.

QUIMBY

The Campus Flirt—Original screen story for Bebe Daniels by Louise Long and Lloyd Corrigan. Bebe as the collegiate snob who became the campus flirt. James Hall is The Man, and supporting cast includes El Brendel, Joan Standing, Gilbert Roland, Irma Kornelia, Jocelyn Lee and Charlie Paddock, "the world's fastest human."

THE SILENT LOVER—From the story "The Legionary" by Lajos Biro. Desert atmosphere and the sheik angle with Milton Sills in the leading role. Natalie Kingston, Viola Dana, Montague Love and Charlie Murray in prominent parts; also. A trip to the Hawaiian Islands with Aldrich's Imperial Hawaiian singers and instrumentalists in person.

IMPERIAL

Sir Lumberjack—Original story from the land of the murmuring pines and hemlocks by Victor Gibson, starring Lefty Flynn with Kathlyn Myers as the heroine. Cast includes Tom Kennedy, William Walling, Luke Cosgrave, Ray Hanford and others. Thrilling story of the lumber camps.

The Quarterback—Original story by William Slavens McNutt and William O. McGeehan, the latter sports writer on the New York Herald-Tribune. Richard Dix is the hero and Esther Ralston is The Girl. Cast includes Harry Beresford, David Butler, Robert W. Craig and Mona Palma. Four complete elevens of ex-collegiate stars are used, two teams for the 1899 encounter and two for the present day sequence of the game.

The high crowned hat is to be worn all winter.

DRAMATIC SCENES IN GETHSEMANE ARE COMPLETED

Setting Reproduced From Old Steel Engravings For "King of Kings"

With the completion of impressive scenes in a reproduction of the Garden of Gethsemane, another great Biblical episode has been recreated for Cecil B. De Mille's pictorial story of Jesus, "The King of Kings."

The dramatic moments of Judas' betrayal of the Christ to the Roman soldiers, the brief struggle between the Apostles and the soldiers, and the seizure of Jesus all were enacted in a setting reproduced from old steel engravings made in Gethsemane by pilgrims centuries ago. Unable to find a spot in Southern California sufficiently resembling the engravings, Cecil De Mille had this Garden reconstructed on one of the tremendous stages at the De Mille studios, where modern illuminating equipment makes possible striking lighting effects.

All present during the filming of the intensely dramatic scenes in Gethsemane were moved by the tremendous significance of this part of "The King of Kings," which was written for the screen by Jeanie Macpherson. The players themselves, under the inspiration of this remarkable setting, gave interpretations of unusual strength to their portrayals. A terrifically tragic figure before the camera is Judas, enacted by Joseph Schildkraut, while Ernest Torrence, as the impulsive sword-wielding Peter was most convincing. H. B. Warner, Theodore Kosloff, Joseph Striker, and Robert Edeson played prominent roles in this episode.

Today the Garden of Gethsemane is a perfectly-groomed flower garden, kept by monks at the time of Jesus it was a natural woodland of olive and cypress trees growing haphazardly in a rocky glen. Gethsemane means "Place of olive-crushing," indicating that the manufacture of olive oil was carried on there. Undoubtedly all the trees existing at the time of the Divine Agony were destroyed by the Romans in 70 A. D. during the sacking of Jerusalem, but some very old trees are said to have sprung from the roots of those which dotted this famous spot twenty centuries ago.

Young Star Has Leading Role In "Quarterback" With Richard Dix

The promotion of Esther Ralston to stardom by Paramount lends weight to the frequently made assertion that success in the films means hard work and lots of it. Very few players become sensations over night. It's the experience that counts, a little bit here and a little bit there, a diversity of parts that require real acting. These are the things which make an actor.

Miss Ralston has been a member of the Paramount stock company for some time. Her first real success came in "Peter Pan." Until the production of "The Blind Goddess" she had been cast in ingenue roles. On the strength of her work in her first dramatic part Famous Players cast her in "Old Ironsides," a story of the old frigate "Constitution."

She hails from Bar Harbor, Me., and was educated in New York and Washington. Before entering pictures she was on the stage with other members of her family.

Miss Ralston will be seen here next with Richard Dix in "The Quarterback," a fast moving sports story in which four complete elevens are used in the two versions of a football game.

ESTHER RALSTON

TWO BIG PICTURES ARE READY FOR RELEASE

Two of the year's biggest special film productions are now being prepared by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for presentation on Broadway, New York. Only the question of which theatres they will occupy holds in abeyance "Tell It to the Marines," with Lon Chaney as star, and "The Fire Brigade," about which there has been so much to-do in picture circles.

"Tell It to the Marines" is the spectacular picture recently filmed in co-operation with the U. S. Marine Corps, in which Lon Chaney, playing a hard-boiled drill sergeant, appears for once without gruesome make-up. Eleanor Boardman plays the feminine lead, with William Haines opposite her.

"The Fire Brigade," has been hailed by those who have previewed it as the epic film of its kind. It is a tensely-woven and glamorous photoplay of heroism and a mother's love, with some of the most sensational scenes of fire fighting ever recorded by the camera. William Nigh directed this film, which, like "Tell It to the Marines," is based on an original story. In this Charles Bay and May McAvoy head a notable cast.

KEEP IT SHINY

Go over the gas stove occasionally with an oiled cloth to prevent rust.

CHAS. FROHMAN'S "NO" BROUGHT BACK AN "OH"

Ethel Barrymore was playing in Chicago—oh, this was some years ago—and she didn't like the play, "Tante." She wanted to return to New York and begin rehearsing with Uncle John Drew in Sardou's "The Scrap of Paper." In fact she sent to Charles Frohman at the Empire theater a telegram of a hundred well chosen words, telling him just why and how she expected to close her Chicago engagement and return to the Empire.

She received this reply:

Miss Ethel Barrymore,
Chicago, Ill
NO.
(Signed) Charles Frohman.

A little taken back, but not to be outdone, Miss Barrymore replied:

Mr. Charles Frohman,
Empire Theater,
New York City.
OH!
(Signed) Ethel Barrymore.

RUSSIAN FILM TO BE SHOWN FIRST TIME IN NEW YORK

Director Engaged by Doug Fairbanks After He Had Seen Picture

That much-discussed Soviet production, "Potemkin," will have its first public showing in New York on Dec. 6, at the Biltmore theatre.

This picture was directed by S. M. Eisenstein, who is 27 years old. It is reported that he is coming to America to make a picture for Douglas Fairbanks. Mr. Fairbanks was very enthusiastic about "Potemkin," and so was Max Reinhardt, who produced "The Miracle" for Morris Gest. Mr. Reinhardt is quoted as saying:

"Now, for the first time, I am willing to admit that the stage will have to give way to the cinema."

"Potemkin" is sponsored by an organization called Amkino, which is a new name for Sovkino, as the film affiliation of the Russian Soviet is known.

In producing this picture, Mr. Eisenstein used members of the Moscow Art Theatre and hundreds of players from the prolecult, the organization of Proletarian Culture. Every actor in "Potemkin" receives the full consideration due the role he impersonates. It is a picture without stars, and there are many episodes when it seems as if the story of the mutiny in 1905 aboard the Prince Potemkin, the warship, was acted by genuine sailors.

The momentum of this production is a rare achievement. It has a wonderful rhythmic motion, whether one is looking at the engines, the sea, the sailors or the slow-moving guns.

There are some scenes devoted to the land, when the dreaded and unperturbed Cossacks sweep on against the hordes of sympathizers with the mutineers.

A quartet of beehives camouflaged within well-executed wooden statues of Biblical characters—Moses, Aaron, Simeon and the Apostle Paul—is one of the sights on a German bee farm near Leowenburg.

J. C. Gregory is ranked first among England's tennis players by the Lawn Tennis Referees Association.

BLONDE-BRUNETTE CONTROVERSY RAGES!

"Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," Says Greta Nissen, "But, They Marry Brunettes," is Come-Back of One of the Pretty Darker Sisters; Examples of Both Shades Tell of Advantages

Fast and furious rages the "Blonde and Brunette" controversy in Hollywood, home of the most beautiful representatives of both shades.

The debate has been intensified by the statement of Richard Rosson, Paramount director, now making "Blonde or Brunette," with Adolphe Menjou in the starring role, and Greta Nissen and Arlette Marchal as the blonde and brunette respectively, that the agitation has resulted in a "25 per cent increase in the number of blondes" and that "many brunettes are sacrificing their beauty" by bleaching their hair.

Greta Nissen, Norwegian beauty, a natural blonde and the last word in the allegedly preferred style of pigmentation, has come forward with a statement that she "doesn't blame the brunettes for wanting to be blondes" and Arlette Marchal has countered with a defense of her darker sisters.

Both have outlined their reasons for being satisfied with the tinting Providence dispensed them in the following summarized statements:

ADVANTAGES OF BEING A BLONDE By GRETA NISSEN	ADVANTAGES OF BEING A BRUNETTE By ARLETTE MARCHAL
1. Blondes can be seen farther away.	1. The nearer you see a brunette the more you like her.
2. Blondes don't have to worry about grey hair.	2. Brunettes don't worry about anything.
3. Blondes look younger.	3. Brunettes generally are younger.
4. A blonde "vamp" can work without being suspected. Everybody thinks vamps are always dark.	4. Brunettes have a reputation for constancy. They're never expected to be fickle so they're never found out.
5. Blondes look best in fluffy clothes that men like.	5. Brunettes can wear comfortable tailored clothes that blondes can't.
6. Gentlemen Prefer Blondes.	6. Gentlemen marry brunettes. They just step out with blondes.

The blonde and brunette controversy has become so heated that it is thought possible that a photoplay showing a blonde winning a man against a brunette, or vice versa, may cause rioting and rock-throwings at the screen in the larger peroxide and henna centers. In the case of "Blonde or Brunette" it has been decided to keep the winning tint a secret. The hero marries them both and things are straightened out from there.

The Shadow Box

A RECIPE

A group of camera men at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios, discussing perfect features, voted for Mae Murray's mouth, Greta Garbo's eyes, Claire Windsor's profile, and Norma Shearer's hair.—Movie Item.

Ah, beauty, darling of the gods
And theme of many a poet's lay!
Defining it is facing odds—
It's really difficult to say.

Is it the wind that stirs the plain?
Is it the mountain capped with snow?
Is it the willow in the rain?
The movie camera men say no.

For look ye north or look ye south,
Or look ye east or look ye west,
For lovely lips and kissed mouth,
They say Mae Murray's is the best.

Well, that's a start. Then, say the wise,
A lovely mouth is but a dream
Unless below a pair of eyes
That gleam as Greta Garbo's gleam.

O lovely mouth that hints of bliss!
O gleaming eyes beyond compare!
Still you will miss some the kiss
If she has Norma Shearer's hair.

Then let her have (they don't want much)
Three camera men of Hollywood)
Claire Windsor's profile—final touch.

And then they'll say, the girl is GOOD.

Could all these parts be made one whole,
Think, ere ye took the maid to bride.
She might, remember, have no soul...
Say, ain't you ever satisfied?

-:-

George Bernard Shaw, dropping art for the moment, has turned his attention to the movies, and it is his discovery that most directors spend too much money. When this item was relayed to three of Von Stroheim's former bosses they cried out, Gosh! That's what we've been saying all along!"

-:-

It looks like a blonde year. Anita Loos' book and play are going stronger than ever. In Hollywood they are in such demand that Carmel Myers is wearing a blonde wig, and Harry Wills has fought his last fight.

-:-

Universal is going to produce the stage thriller of a few seasons back, "The Cat and the Canary," and will probably borrow Lon Chaney for the title role.

-:-

According to a Hollywood fashion note the movie stars are going in for enormous checks. We showed this item to a producer who groaned that there was no question about it. So, maybe it's a financial paragraph after all.

-:-

Jesse Lasky, Jr., it develops, is a poet. And, as one who has been in the business a good many years, we feel it only our duty to inform Jesse Lasky, Sr., that there's no money in it.

-:-

You don't catch Mr. Zukor's boy writing poetry! —R. O. B.

SONG OF THE DRAGON IS NOW UNDER WAY

Joe Boyle, production manager of Robert Kane, assumed direction this week of "The Song of the Dragon," latest special for First National release, now in production at the Cosmopolitan Studio in New York. Dorothy Mackaill, First National featured player, and Lawrence Gray have the leads with an impressive supporting cast headed by Lowell Sherman, Buster Collier, Ian Keith, Gail Kane, Vincent Serrano and Ernest Gillen. Eddie Gribbon and Jack Askroyd have been assigned the comedy roles with Ione Holmes also featured in the list of leading players. The picture is based on a short story by John Tainter Foote.

LAURETTE TAYLOR'S DELIGHTFUL COMEDY OF YOUTH — All Week Starting Monday

PEG O' MY HEART

How the witty, plucky, old fashioned little Irish girl won the love of her aristocratic relatives and the man of her choice.

One of the rare treats in a season crammed with brilliant successes.

By J. Hartly Manners

ALICE CAVANAUGH WILL BE A DELIGHT AS THE LOVABLE LITTLE PEG

The WELLER — The WRIGHT PLAYERS — GREAT PLAYS at SMALL PRICES — MATINEES WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY — Phone 994

NEXT WEEK, COM. DEC. 13—Prepare now to see the Wright Players in the tuneful musical comedy,

"THE GINGHAM GIRL"

SEATS NOW ON SALE —— NO ADVANCE IN PRICES

Nights—25c-50c-75c
Mats.—25c-50c

Seats on sale a week in advance—Phone 994

NEXT WEEK—WM. BOYD in "LAST FRONTIER"

LIBERTY THEATER

COMING— "ACROSS THE PACIFIC"

TODAY AND MONDAY

Through the accident of war, his face mutilated, then remade by plastic surgery, he becomes a gigolo—a professional dance man—accepting money from wealthy women so that he might live and forget the past rendered beautiful by the girl he had loved and lost.

ROD LA ROCQUE
— IN —
GIGOLO
WITH
Jobyna Ralston
Louise Dresser

From the Story by EDNA FERBER

TUXEDO COMEDY — — — — NEWS WEEKLY

FIVE DAYS STARTING TUESDAY

BUSTER KEATON
IN HIS GREATEST COMEDY KNOCKOUT
BATTLING BUTLER
With
SALLY ("MIKE") O'NEIL

Here is the greatest prize-fight comedy ever made! More thrills and laughs to the foot than you'd think possible! What a whirlwind of fun and excitement to sweep you off your feet!

LLOYD HAMILTON COMEDY