

NEXT WEEK AT ROANOKE RAPIDS THEATRES

GREEN PASTURES A GREAT SCREEN ACHIEVEMENT

AT PEOPLES WEDN'DAY THURSDAY

By HOWARD HANCOCK
 "The Green Pastures" is coming! The world-famous stage hit that 2,000,000 people paid \$5,000,000.00 to see during its five-year record-breaking run, has at last been screened by Warner Brothers, famous pioneers of film cycles, and Roanoke Rapids theatre-goers will be offered their "one and only" opportunity to see this unusual picture next Wednesday-Thursday, when it comes to the Peoples Theatre, soon after its recent South-eastern Premiere. The reason we say "one and only opportunity" is because we are reliably informed that the film can never be returned for a second showing.

As a film, "The Green Pastures" is a strange thing. There are no fervent loves, no messy triangles, not even any stars you ever heard of before. While there is plenty of comedy, there is also more important things: imagination, tenderness, idealism and a great, vast idea.

You perhaps know something of the history of the play from which the film is translated. A New Orleans newspaper man named Roark Bradford wrote a series of humorous sketches, in dialogue, in which Southern Negroes gave their explanation of Bible stories. It remained for Marc Connelly, sophisticated playwright, to conceive the idea of a play which would enact the Bible story as it lived in the simple, literal minds of these Southern Negroes.

It is said that to them Heaven is a glorification of the things they think most joyous-fish-fries among the angels, with an archangel handing out ten-cent stogies, great white clouds to ride like horses, and things like that. And God, to such minds, appears to be the kindly old village preacher only grown taller, straighter and more kindly.

That is what Marc Connelly originally sets out to show, and what he does show in the first part of the film. It is shown tenderly, even humorously, and with a naive-vete so skillfully planned that the skill is much less obvious than the naive-vete.

But Marc Connelly goes on from there to present an idea that is far from his original plan because it would not trouble the literal faiths of those who clap their hands to the hymn-tunes in the black man's churches by the levees. Connelly depicts, in his film and play, a seeming development of God Himself. There on the screen the Archangel Gabriel shouts to the angel picnickers "Gangway for the Lord God Jehovah," and the one who enters is a god of wrath; an eye-for-eye, tooth-for-tooth God. When the film has ended we have seen Him suffer; we have heard him say: "Even being God ain't no bed of roses," and we have seen Him, purified by His own suffering become a God of mercy... a God of love.

To put a story of that sort into the minds of the levee black man is, possibly from one viewpoint, "bad playwriting" on Marc Connelly's part, but it does transform his simple tale into a vast, noble epic of the screen. The best praise one can give the film version is to say that the tale is told reverently, vividly and beautifully. We would not go so far as to predict that the picture is much finer than the play was, but the difference could be much greater than it is and there would still remain a film that will fill you with wonder and beauty and a sense of gratitude to those who made it.

Please keep in mind that it is very important that the picture be seen from the beginning if it is to

GRACE MOORE IS HEARD AS A SINGING PRINCESS IN HER LATEST PICTURE

"The King Steps Out" is Week's Opener at Peoples

ONCE AGAIN the magic voice of Grace Moore thrills thousands of movie-goers in the new picture "The King Steps Out," which will be shown next Monday-Tuesday at the Peoples. This time Miss Moore has as her leading man, Franchot Tone, who is seen as a gay, romantic emperor who loses his heart to an impish maid. Walter Connolly, ace character man, contributes greatly to the cast.

The plot of "The King Steps Out" has been encountered many, many times before on the screen in one form or another. A King is about to announce his engagement to a princess he has never seen, and does not love, and naturally enough, the princess is in love with someone else.

When her mother takes the princess up to the castle to be present when the King (whose part as aforesaid is taken by Franchot Tone) broadcasts his betrothal to her, the Princess' sister, Grace Moore, makes up her mind to throw a monkey wrench in the machinery, if you will pardon us discussing a Royal marriage in so light a manner. She doesn't want the King herself; she merely wants her sister wed to the man she loves, whose part in this instance is enacted by Victor Jory.

Events work themselves around to the point where the King lays eye to Miss Moore, and blinks happily at her. You see, he thinks she is merely a pretty dressmaker. In reality he is tied to the royal apron strings of his Queen mother, and she makes him stand around even tho he is a King. After Miss Moore gets to working on him with her charm, however, it isn't long before he sneaks out

be thoroughly enjoyed. Screen-time for this unusual feature next Wednesday-Thursday at the Peoples will be at 1:00, 2:55, 7:30 and 9:25 P. M.—and remember, see it during one of these two days next week, for it will never again play a Roanoke Rapids theatre.

the back door to meet her. They even attend a carnival together, have dinner at a hotel, during all of which time he regards her as simply a dress maker.

One night King Franchot doesn't event go home to his castle, and when a king stays out all night it appears a lot of people get all "fussed up" including the prime minister, the commandant in chief of the army and navy, the head of the secret service, the keeper of the front and back gates, and so far into the night.

An excellent cast raises "The King Steps Out" to a rather high entertainment level.

 "THE GREEN PASTURES," reviewed elsewhere on this page, will be the Wednesday-Thursday at-

LOCAL NEWS

I. Zeigler returned to his home in Cleveland, Ohio, Monday, after spending several days visiting William Farber here.

Mrs. William Farber of Baltimore, Md., is spending several days here with Mr. Farber and friends.

traction next week at the Peoples.

 THE PEOPLES brings back the ace entertainment picture of the year, "Show Boat" with Irene Dunne, Allan Jones, and countless other stars, for its second run at a city house next Friday-only. "Show Boat" will be shown at "bargain day" prices for its second run here.

 BUSTER CRABBE is co-starred with Marsha Hunt in a fast western, "The Arizona Raiders," which should delight the Saturday patrons next week at the Peoples.

Miss Marie Lyerly has returned from an extended visit to Danville, Va., where she was visiting Mrs. Lucy Hobbs, formerly of this city.

Miss Louise King is visiting her aunt, Mrs. Charles B. Cozzens, of Burlington.

Mr. and Mrs. Z. T. Brewer and daughter, Nellie Mae, spent the week-end at Petersburg.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Jenkins and Gracie Jenkins spent the week-end in Petersburg.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Powers spent the week-end in Murfreesboro.

Mrs. Ira Edmonds is spending the week with her mother, at Charlie Hope.

Mesdames R. E. Merritt, Marion Hudson, Alice and Tommie Merritt and Maxine Hawkins are spending the week at Ocean View.

Miss Lillian Edmonds of Lawrenceville is spending the week with her sister, Mrs. S. J. Lynch.

You Praised The Stage Show Now You'll Acclaim the Picture!

The Nation's press and citizens alike praised the stage show—Because of the screen's advantages, the picture will be even more highly acclaimed. You owe it to yourself to see the outstanding photoplay of years.

THE MARC CONNELLY'S PULITZER PRIZE PLAY Green Pastures

ACCOMPANIED BY THE FAMOUS HALL JOHNSON NEGRO CHORUS OF 100 VOICES SINGING 25 NEGRO SPIRITUALS

See It From The Beginning--

—it is of utmost importance—otherwise you positively will not enjoy or understand this great story.

SHOWS AT: 1:00 - 2:55 - 7:30 - 9:25

READ THESE RAVE REVIEWS:

Finer, more entertaining than the stage play. Audiences should be grateful for the opportunity of seeing it.

—Detroit Free Press

Nothing like it has ever reached the screen. A perfect marvel of entertainment.

—New York American

Never before a picture quite like "The Green Pastures." This grand film has a quality all its own.

—Liberty Magazine.

The greatest picture to come out of Hollywood. Enough cannot be said in praise of this magnificent film.

—Kansas City Star.

I have recommended this picture to members of my own congregation without reserve.

Reverend Samuel E. West,
Wichita, Kansas.

ADDED SUBJECTS:
 WALT DISNEY'S MICKEY MOUSE in
 "MICKEY'S RIVAL" ALL IN TECHNICOLOR

PEOPLES

WED.-THUR. AUG. 5th & 6th
 (THURSDAY NIGHT the entire Balcony will be reserved for Colored Patrons)

THIS PICTURE WILL NEVER AGAIN BE SHOWN IN THE CITY

NEXT ATTRACTION:

Jean Harlow - Franchot Tone - Cary Grant
 in "S U Z Y"

Next Week at the ROYAL THEATRE

DIAL R-394
 PROGRAM FOR WEEK
 AUGUST 3, 1936

10c Admission
 Matinee & Night 15c

MONDAY-TUESDAY
 Wheeler-Woolsey

SILLY BILLIES

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY
 Dick Powell-Ruby Keeler

FLIRTATION WALK

FRIDAY-SATURDAY
 Charles Starrett

Gallant Defender
 Added:
 New Adventures of Tarzan