

# New "Passing Show" at Winter Garden Filled with Fun and Scenically Gorgeous

Two Acts and Fourteen Scenes, a New  
Comedian and Many Beautiful Girls.

Virtually every one known to Broadway strolled in out of the lightless gloom last night when the indoor explosion of brilliance for 1918 was offered to the tired commercial types. They found in the new Passing Show such a maze of new chorus beauties, such a flock of singers, dancers and comedians and such unparalleled scenic effects that they stared much and laughed little. In brief, it is a production with enough features, talent and that elusive quality known as class, to be divided through two blocks and a side street full of theatres.

The two acts of the new presentation are divided with an eye to causing anxiety among the business classes. In the first act the chorus—and it is a rarely beautiful one—affects gowns of unusual beauty and modesty. There was a murmur of approval noticeable at once and some applause. In the second act the chorus no longer affects these gowns or unusual beauty and modesty. The applause was thunderous.

In the fourteen scenes which the combined authorities of the Winter Garden decided were sufficient, one is taken to about every point in town at which anything of interest may be observed, after which a batch of new places are located by the theatrical guides, and they are all very interesting and worth while sticking along to see. Now and again some one would burst out laughing during this tour of the scenery, but as a usual thing the orchestra sightseers devoted themselves to gasps induced by scenery and to coy looks induced by the customary Winter Garden system of maintaining a proper chorus temperature.

## Music Easy to Listen To.

The music of the new Passing Show is at times catchy and always easy to listen to, and when Frank Fay and Miss Isabel Lowe sang a little ditty called "I'll Make an Angel of You" the first symptom of first night humming developed. Another splendid song and idea was "War Stamps," which was sung early and kept the girls selling actual Thrift Stamps in the orchestra and balcony for twenty musical minutes.

From the outset of the performance it became clear that those observers who liked variety had romped right into the proper enclosure. Feature after feature by featured player after featured player came in for vociferous attention, and as the evening wore on there became less and less interest in the fact that laughs were scarce. The book of the play, if there was one, remained unopened.

Eugene and Willie Howard have some good minutes in the review, and it is readily to be observed that Willie would be as funny as he ever was if given proper opportunity. He is more than willing and has all of the mannerisms which usually compels his admirers to roll right over, but after carefully studying his part he has obviously discovered that little remains to be said.

## Willie Howard as Chef.

In one scene at the Childs Fifty-ninth street morning rendezvous he is a busy chef, and comes within an ace of getting Willie Howardish, but aside from that he finds no opportunity and devotes himself to song, at which he appears to good ad-



MISS JESSIE REED and MISS NITA NALDI  
in "THE PASSING SHOW" at 1918  
PHOTO BY WHITE

vantage. With brother Eugene and Violet Englefield he did an excellent bit in the "Gall Curci Rag," and his musical imitations of Al Jolson, Jack Norworth and Harry Lauder made a big hit.

As a whole the new "Passing Show" is superior to all others in scenic effects attained at the Winter Garden, and has pretty girls enough and individual favorites enough to make it almost necessary to see it. And in seeing there is one spectacular enterprise which has a widening effect upon the eyes. It is a scene in which two German airplanes are shot down over London by an American avia-

tor and it brings one as close to war as is possible without enlisting.

The collection of principals who do their very best are, aside from the Howard boys, George Hassell, a newcomer at the Winter Garden; Chic Sale, Frank Fay, Charles Ruggles, Miss Virginia Fox Brooks, Fred and Adele Astaire, Miss Violet Englefield, Miss Isabel Lowe, Miss Isabel Rodriguez, Miss Nell Carrington, Miss Olga Roller, Clayton and White, Miss Jessie Reed, Miss Florence Elmore, Miss Nita Naldi and Dorsha, dancer. Which would seem to be ample for one evening's entertainment.