

Chapel Theatre Defies Jinx, To Open 'Gigi' on Thirteenth

By BETTY SCHROEDER
 Never before in the history of Chapel Theater has there been such tingling excitement within its walls before an opening night. Friday the 13th may be a superstition with some people, but not with everyone connected with "GIGI," which

will make its opening performance Friday at 8:30 p.m. in Chapel Theatre located at Smith Bros. Fish Shanty Shopping Center, 4164 Pacific Coast Hwy., Torrance.
 The main reason for all this excitement is that this is the first cast in Chapel Theatre

history to work with a Hollywood celebrity. There is too much to look forward to, all in the channels of fun-making, to be anything but delighted at the prospect of opening night.

famous French mannerisms, quaint accent, and amusing way of saying words, plus the ever fluttering of fan and hands gesticulating, as the flow of the never-ending recollections came from this most fascinating personage. During rehearsals, there was one word that the cast especially waited for Fifi to say, which 'broke the up' every time, and that was — calamity.

of Manhattan Beach; Charline French of Torrance as Sidonie the maid; and Thomas Lowry of Los Angeles as Victor the butler. Thelma Ledwidge of Torrance is Miss D'Orsay's understudy as well as assistant director.

"GIGI" IS THE French comedy by Anita Loos, adapted from the play by Colette, which revolves about the life of a young girl whose family is ever plotting her future, which mainly consists of finding a rich roue who will make all their lives comfortable. Gigi, in her young innocence outsmarts them and much to their amazement finds her own love and happiness without the assistance of any intentional scheming.

Bob Taylor of Torrance who is stage manager also moasts a very cooperative crew consisting of Sam Manu, stage manager; Grover Palmer, Larry Sage and Steve Sands who construct the sets with Steve Sands designing the sets; plus Lynda Gorchester and Bety Schroeder handling stage props. Not to be outdone, Steve Sands of Hermosa Beach announces his crew will manage the lighting, sound effects and assist in manipulating set changes. Included are Dan Wilgues and Nic Boutikoff.

With the presentation of "Gigi," Chapel Theatre is making history with two "firsts" in one production — that of starring a Hollywood celebrity, and featuring entertainment during intermission. This will consist of nothing less than "Can Can" dancers, presented

by the Barbara School of Dance, 2015 Bataan Road, Redondo Beach. They will include Peggy Bean, Barbara and Judy Simonson, Terry Masonheimer, and Sharon Wickstrom who will be resplendent in the colorful "Can Can" costumes prevalent in the French period of the year 1900, in which time "Gigi" is presented.

Mason will feature portraits as his contribution to this exhibit. Mason, designer of murals, interiors, and paintings received his training in Paris, New York, and Connecticut. He received awards at the National Academy of Design in New York, and a Tiffany Fellowship. He has exhibited in New York and Washington, D.C., and has had four one-man shows in Los Angeles area. Mason is a member of the Artists Co-Op Gallery as well as instructor in drawing and painting, and currently is conducting private classes in Palos Verdes Plaza.

It is suggested that early reservations be made by calling Box Office — FR 2-9636, for reservations for "Gigi" which will be presented for four weekends, Friday through Sunday with curtain time being 8:30 p.m.

Sight & Sound

By Ernest Kreiling

HOLLYWOOD — Live television from Europe is just a few weeks away.

The enormous attention given to rocketry and space exploration for scientific and military purposes has overshadowed the concurrent development of the same instruments for peaceful purposes such as communications. But later this spring the exciting realities of live international television will burst upon us as something as wondrous as television itself 15 years ago.

Within a matter of weeks, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company will launch the first of two experimental satellites designed to relay television signals between here and Europe. The launching will take place at Cape Canaveral under the auspices of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, but with the costs being paid by AT&T.

PLANS ARE already afoot for the development of at least a few experimental programs.

The instrument that is opening up this new horizon in television service is a sphere approximately 3 feet in diameter, weighing but 125 pounds. Within it will be a miniature transmitter and receiver, operating with 3½ watts of power supplied by solar cells. This satellite, called Telstar, will orbit the earth at a height of between 600 and 3,000 miles, picking up U.S. signals from the AT&T ground station in Andover, Me., and transmitting them back to earth in Europe.

The United States Information Agency, headed by Edward R. Murrow, has been charged with the responsibility for the content of the first satellite telecasts, and meetings have already been held with network executives.

THE FIRST telecasts will be cooperatively produced by the three American networks, officials of which have already met with members of the European Broadcast Union in Seville, Spain, to develop specific plans for the exchange of live programs.

Little imagination is required to see the exciting possibilities inherent in such a system. Live coverage of riots in Paris streets or harassments at Berlin's wall will impress us

with the exigencies of international situations in a way film clips on the evening news never can. Live presentations in color of La Scala in Milan, The Shakespeare Festival in Stratford-on-Avon, or the Salzburg Music Festival can undoubtedly be enriching experiences.

AS THE YEARS pass we will see a worldwide cultural homogenization on a larger scale than we have already witnessed in the United States since nationwide television has leveled regional differences, states and interests.

But much of the burden will be on the United States, because American programs now being provided to other nations on film or on video tape are the most popular fare among people in other countries. The use of this incredibly powerful tool simply to facilitate the distribution of Soupy Sales and Pete and Gladys will be tantamount to high treason.

THE UNITED STATES will probably never have a more powerful or effective tool with which to present to the rest of the world the deep meaning of our heritage of freedom or our dreams of a peaceful world.

Worldwide television is no longer a dream: it's a challenge and an opportunity that is already upon us.

A limited number of copies of an interesting booklet, "Communicating By Satellite" are available to readers free of charge on a first come basis. Readers should address a post card to the HERALD.

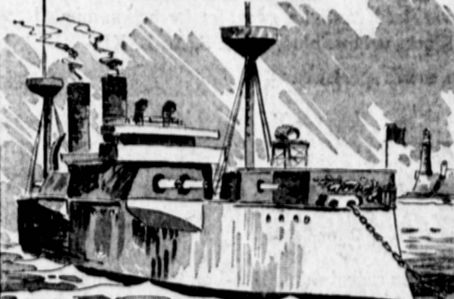
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