

Peking Pavilion

PROGRAMME

Mei Lan-Fang

presents

The Original Play

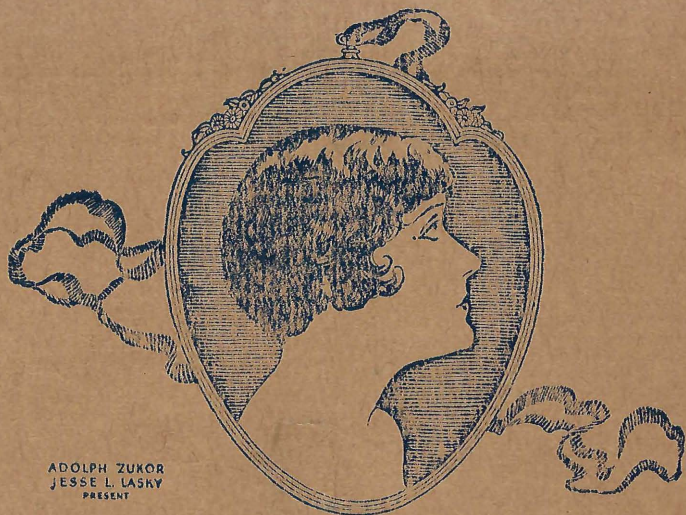
"The King's Parting

With His Favourite"

Wednesday April 10th 1929

at 9:15 p.m.

TUESDAY & THURSDAY TO SATURDAY
APRIL 9 & 11 TO 13



ADOLPH ZUKOR
JESSE L. LASKY
PRESENT

Gloria Swanson
IN
Madame Sans Gene

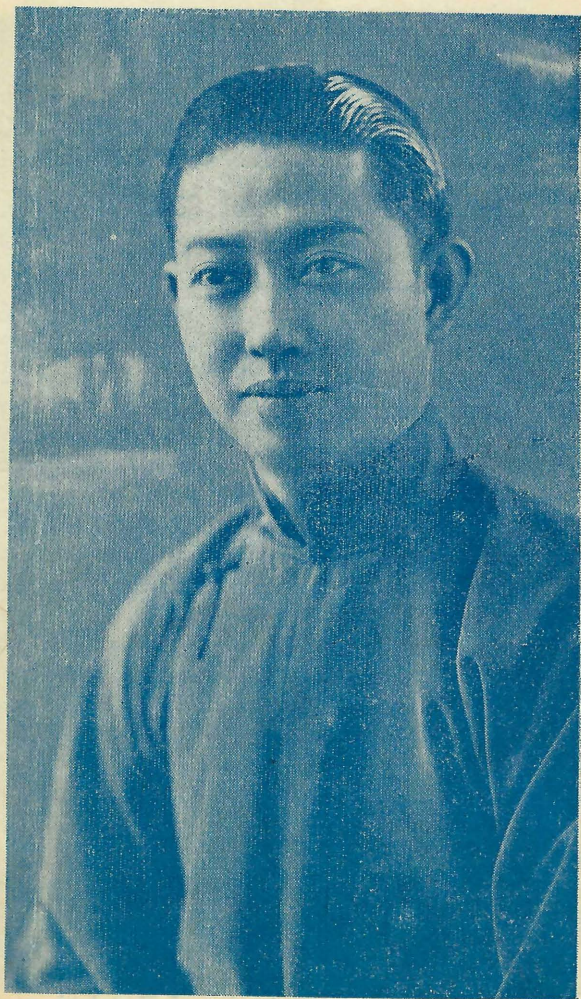
A Paramount Picture

Here is the picture Gloria Swanson made in France—the one everybody has been talking about a magnificent production of the famous romantic comedy.

With Gloria in her greatest comedy love role, and a supporting company of renowned French artists.

The most celebrated of all French plays is now the greatest of all Swanson triumphs.

**THE MOST AMAZING BEAUTIFUL ROMANCE
IN SCREEN HISTORY!**



THE MOST RECENT PORTRAIT OF
MR. MEI LAN-FANG

"THE KING'S PARTING WITH HIS FAVOURITE"

CAST

YU CHI MEI LAN FANG
HANG YU CHOW JUI AN

SYNOPSIS OF "THE SHOW"

(BY GEORGE KIN LEUNG)

The action of this historical drama, *Pa Wang Pich Chi*, takes place during the period known as the "Struggle between Ch'u and Han" (B. C. 206-202), The aspirants for nation-supremacy, Hang Yu of Wu and Liu Pang of Pei, the latter destined to become the founder of the great House of Han, hated each other with a consuming hatred. Under the banner of Liu Pang in the drama are General Han Hsin, Li Tso-che, and Wei Pao.

The quick temper and impulsive nature of Hang Yu, which hasten his downfall, are constantly kept, both in speech and action, well to the fore. Mr. Chin Shao-shan, an artist who sings the roles of the *ching*, or "painted faced" types, played with marked success in 1926 the part of Hang Yu opposite Mr. Mei's memorable heroine, Yu Chi. Mr. Chin will sing the same role to-day and to-morrow.

Liu Pang, on the other hand, resourceful and capable of patient suffering, in end, turned victor. The years of bloodshed and struggle were marked by Hang Yu's winning a series of battles. At times, Liu Pang barely escaped with his life. His fortunes, however, took a favourable turn as soon as he had made Han Hsin head of his military affairs.

Due to the fact that the armies of Han had come from a great distance and found much difficulty in transporting supplies, it was Hang Yu's policy to keep off the open field of battle and remain in his well pro-

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MR. MEI LAN-FANG IN THE SCENE OF
"THE KING'S PARTING WITH HIS FAVOURITE"

PEKING P GRAND OPENING OF THE G

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Screening of Big F

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in

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Bebe puts all the fire of her own
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The great little comic of "What
Price Glory" "The gay
Retreat" "Rookies."

Greta Garbo

in

"THE DIVINE WOMAN"

Seductive! Alluring! Tantalizing!
Gorgeous! Put them all
together — they Spel
G-R-E-T-A G-A-R-B-O.

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With Emil Jannings and Belle
Bennet Soul-Stirring! Drama
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Shearer

Romance Tender, appealing and
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season laugh!

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The Comedy of every male.
The Drama of Every Female!

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The Year's Dramatic Sensation.

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Farell

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commanded the praise of
millions of movie fans.

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Gloria Swanson

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The clash of whills and emotions!
W. Griffith's greatest love
spectacle!

John Gilbert

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with Greta Garbo

Snared By Passion—Trailed By
Disaster.—John Gilbert here
in the years' romantic
Sensation!

visioned stronghold. Aware of the enemy's advantage, Han Hsin sent Li Tso-che to feign surrender to Hang Yu and to persuade the latter to come out into open combat. The wise counsellors and Yu Chi herself begged Hang Yu, all in vain, not to trust the crafty Li; yet, the spy, who proved himself more than a match for the others, soon wheedled his way into the leader's confidence.

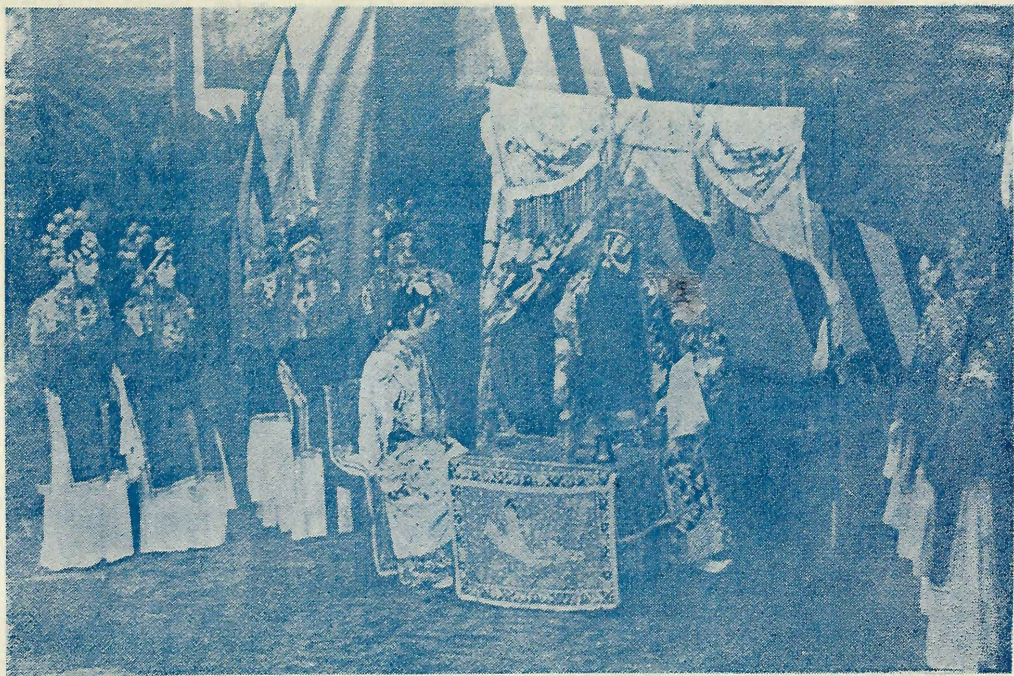
When Li Tso-che at last prevails upon Hang Yu to proceed to Nine Li Mountain, there appear signs as ominous as those in the opening lines of "Julius Caesar." Said the counselors, "Your Highness, the ripping of the great banner in the gale and the long neighing of the horse—these are fell portents. Why do you not draw the rein and proceed no farther?..." But Li, who told Hang Yu that he had learned that the enemy lacked supplies, persuaded the self-opinionated warrior to move forward.

About forty *li* from P'ie-ch'eng, the spy absconded. Li Tso-che returned, flushed with triumph, to General Han Hsin, with whom he proceeded to plan to so arouse Hang Yu's ire as to draw the latter out into open combat and lead him into their carefully laid ambush. Hang Yu, enraged on the discovery of Li's treachery, was consoled by the beautiful Yu Chi, who said, . . . "My only hope is that Your Highness do battle with the utmost of your strength. . . ."

On the field, Liu Pang, in true Biblical fashion, reviles Hang Yu, who is consumed with wrath. When the latter espies Li Tso-che, he gives mad pursuit. Han Hsin, who sings that he knows from astronomical calculation that victory is assured his side, has placed in ambush the flower of his army. Thither, in hot pursuit, Hang Yu lashed his horse. Being closed in upon from all sides, he would have met his end had not Wei Pao, one of the enemy, whose family Hang Yu at one time had rescued, led him out of the glittering maze of weapons.

Yu Chi again consoles the hero, offering him fragrant wine. They hear from the enemy camp the songs

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SCENES FROM "THE KING'S PARTING WITH HIS FAVOURITE".
SEATED IS MR. MEI LAN-FANG.

of their own native district. The opposing forces were singing the songs of Wu in order to remind Hang Yu's men of their families and homes and thus destroy the latter's morale.

On the second day, the dauntless hero did not lose spirit but sang with much bravura, . . . "Does the fierce tiger fear a flock of sheep! . . ." On being defeated, he, a true fatalist, sings, "It is the will of Heaven to destroy Ch'u and raise up Han, and my mighty achievements are wasted like the flowing of waters".

The bleak dawn found the disconsolate warrior, awaiting the end. Gently, Yu Chi suggested that she dance in order to help him forget his sadness. Singing and posturing with her sword, the woman, who was filled with a foreboding that the final parting had come, swallowed her own grief in order to cheer the sorrowing man before her.

As the ominous rumbling of battle drew nearer, Hang Yu addressed his beloved consort, as follows: ". . . I have heard that the ruler of Han is a lover of beauty. You may go and serve him. Go!" To this the woman retorted: "Your Majesty's words are wrong. A faithful minister will not serve two sovereigns; a virtuous woman will not wed twice. If you wish to conquer the empire, why should you be hindered by the thought of one woman? Gladly do I beg of you the sword at your side so that I may end my own life and prove to you my undying gratitude. Alas, my lord! . . ."

The din of battle ever drawing nearer, the woman frantically beseeches the man to flee for his life. Since Hang Yu is unable to tear himself away, Yu Chi sings: ". . . I step forward, slip out the Ch'ing-feng Sword—Anon, my life blood will stain the brown earth below. . . ." She falls at the feet of her royal lover, who, weeping hoarsely, takes to flight.

According to historical record, Hang Yu committed suicide at the O-chiang River, not far from Hochou, which is in the present day province of Anhui.

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