

Document Citation

Title	New Petrova play, 'Hurricane' praised by Montreal critic
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Publisher name not available</i>
Date	
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	The hurricane, Ford, John, 1937

New Petrova Play, 'Hurricane' Praised by Montreal Critic

Reviewer Says This Story of
a Life Is More Than
Welcome.

THE reviewer of the Montreal *Daily Star* appeared to look kindly upon Olga Petrova's new play, "Hurricane," when it opened there recently. He says of this new vehicle for herself by the authoress-star:

Coming at a time when such drama as is being presented on our stage is either maudlin or trivial to the point of foolishness, Mme. Olga Petrova's new play, "Hurricane," is more than welcome—welcome, that is, to all those who are interested in the theater as a social institution and who see in it something more than a convenient medium for the exhibition of pulchritude and inanities. The authoress has elected to describe it as a story of a life in four episodes. Emphatically, she does not preach. And here she is right. It is never the duty of a dramatist or playwright to preach. If the play conveys any particular significance to anybody, well and good; but preaching should be reserved for pulpits.

Mme. Petrova is content to let her characters do their own illumination. She takes a girl who has grown up amid the sordid surroundings of a Texas ranch house, with a brutal, bigoted father and a mother worn to suffering by constant childbearing and a cruel husband's despotic hand. The girl, Ilka, sees nothing before her but the sort of life her mother has led. Her soul revolts. She leaps at the first chance of freedom—freedom to win her way to the individual liberty she craves, through the only medium she can realize as assuring that liberty—money.

She runs away with a man who has offered her an opportunity to see life. His real character is revealed in the second act, which also shows us Ilka, having chosen the easiest way, shaking off the fetters of his despicable claims, striving to learn from a doctor who has become her sincere friend, who loves her but whom she will not marry because the life she is living puts marriage out of the question. She has one definite aim—to help her younger sister, little lame Masha, and to give her a chance in life. With the doctor's aid, Masha is cured. Ilka in seven years has won her way to a competence and retired from the terrible life of sin. She is loved by a man whom she in turn adores, John Arkwright, but when he asks her to marry him she courageously tells him her story.
