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Olga Petrova's Visit Here.

BY HAROLD H. JENSEN.

ONE of the most interesting characters of stage and screen is Olga Petrova, who visited Salt Lake last week in her own play, "Hurricane." Few artists have had such varied experiences as she. A native of Warsaw, fate led her as a young girl to London, where she served as a police reporter on a big daily paper. It was here she first gained her insight into phases of human nature as they really are. She says her recent play is based on actual happenings which she saw while in the world's largest city and among the unfortunates who seek protection and shelter in the fog along the Thames.

She always liked writing and it has been her ambition, for years, to she said, to have time to give to this art. "I don't have to worry about money now, and can write as I please and what I please, for years financial conditions made this impossible, but lately I have devoted most of my time to telling human interest stories that teach, I hope, real object lessons. "Hurricane," I originally wrote for Florence Reed and I had no intention of playing the leading role myself. For four years past I have been giving most of my time to writing and it is this long since I appeared in the movies. I thought I had a message for young America, however, and so consented to play a part. I have tried whenever possible to speak to universities and high schools and to do what little I could to help the rising generation today to more fully sense their responsibilities in life."

Madame Petrova certainly combined deeds with words, for while her program of dates was a strenuous one. When one thinks that a physical strain such a part she portrayed in "Hurricane" calls for, one wonders how she keeps up. She addressed the University of Utah students Friday morning at 11:30, had lunch with the dramatic fraternity, was interviewed by newspaper representatives between times, spoke at the first high school at 3, was rushed back for an automobile ride around the city with prominent citizens, had dinner with chamber of commerce officials and posed for a special picture to help the "Sell 'Em Again" campaign and then played an evening performance. On Saturday she spoke to the Booklovers and played two performances. Lit-wonder Manager Wood report-

ed that she was tired. Addresses between acts, not short ones, but real honest-to-goodness new ones each time, were also given. Madame Petrova excused herself for their length, stating she had not heard her voice for so long, while in the movies that she wanted to make the most of the opportunity.

But to return to her life, which has been one round of events: While in England she contracted tuberculosis. She had only two shillings to keep her from starvation. Going to a noted doctor she asked what a consultation would cost. "He said "Two Pounds." She said she had only two shillings. He compromised and took that. Then he advised a long ocean trip. She replied, "Little chance of that; you have the only money I possess." Fate was kind and she received a chance to go to South Africa with a theatrical company. She not only recovered her health by sheer force of will power but began a noted career on the stage and earned the name of being one of the greatest emotional actresses.

The land of opportunity called and eleven years ago she came to America. Her career since then is so well known to need repeating. Her movie successes are numerous. Only recently she returned to the stage.

Madame Petrova is the wife of Dr. Stewart, an eminent surgeon, whose specialty is cancer. They point with pride to their married record and to their happiness, especially when so much scandal surrounds movie people.

Madame Petrova says many disagree with her writing but she deals with facts as they are. She has a new play "Sand" under way and has seven movie plays to her credit. She wants to return here next year in "The White Peacock," another of her successes, as she says she has never received such a grand reception as in Salt Lake.

Particularly is she proud to play in the historic Salt Lake theatre. She commented on the Green Room, where so many of America's stars of today and yesterday have been housed. She praised President Brigham Young for his interest in putting forward the theatre and said that playgoers here seemed to like plays in which one had to use his brains, and not simply be amused. This today, she said, seems to be the paramount issue for success.