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"Courier of Lyons" Highly Praised.

By WILLIAM BOEHNEL.

Without compromise the French spin an engrossing and terrifying story of the miscarriage of justice in the superbly acted and directed film called "The Courier of Lyons," at the 55th Street Playhouse. If the story is frequently terrifying it is because the truth is also frequently terrifying, and this story of a man who was guillotined on purely circumstantial evidence is based on an actual incident in French history.

What happens is simply this:—Although Joseph Lesurques is happily married, he makes the acquaintance of a fille de joie and goes to her apartment at the very time the Lyons mail is being held up by a gang of highwaymen. Because the leader of the thieves bears a striking resemblance to Lesurques the innocent man is arrested and charged with the crime.

Although he protests his innocence, and although, further, his wife brings witnesses to prove that he was not involved in the crime, circumstantial evidence is so strong against him that, along with the others concerned in the robbery and murder, he is sent to the guillotine. It is only years after that the real criminal is apprehended and sentenced to death.

So well is this film acted by Pierre Blanchar, Dita Parlo, Jacques Copeau, Alcover, Jean Tissier, Charles Dullin, Dorville, Sylvia Bataille and Andre Noel, and so realistically has it been directed by Maurice Lehmann that at times you feel as if you were watching and hearing the real thing instead of a costume recreation of an old law case.

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