

## Document Citation

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**T**HE uses of adversity, hard as they may seem at the moment, are yet sweet, just as Shakespeare wrote long ago, for by them we learn to enjoy the happiness that follows in the wake of trials. The joy that the average mortal should derive from his daily existence, if he but stops to consider that truth and to compare his lot with that of others less fortunate than himself, is powerfully illustrated in "Hurricane," Olga Petrova's triumph, which opened a week's run at the Biltmore last night.

Without the artistry of Petrova, the fine thread of philosophy which runs through the piece might have been snapped just when it needed most to hold.

Her interpretation of the character of Ilka Olczewski, the girl for whom happiness seemed but to be a myth, a thing to come within the reach of her hand only to be snatched away at the moment of supreme joy, is something that will long be remembered in the annals of the theater. It is a part requiring the most delicate handling, far from actor proof, and weaved with the utmost skill. The part is of, by and for Petrova, for she wrote the play and directed it, as well as portraying the leading role.

"Hurricane" is a convincing indictment of the one time prevalent theory that woman is little more than man's slave, a creature to do his bidding, serve him and rear a family.

Though Ilka's rebellion against this and her subsequent experiences carry her into the depths of degradation, one sympathizes with her. He cannot pity her nor condemn her. On the contrary, he admires her.

Petrova's emotionalism in the third episode when it seems that happiness is near, and yet so far away, is so impressive that one could hear a pin drop in the farthest corner of the house.

To the credit for her artistry already mentioned one should add praise for the skillful selection of the cast which was handpicked by the star. Each member is splendidly cast and portrays his role with exacting finish. Perhaps the two outstanding characters are Martha Olczewski, the overburdened mother, played by Ludmilla Toretzka, and Dr. Welch, portrayed by Percy Carr. Their performance, comparatively speaking, rivals that of Petrova. George Pelzer is forceful as Vladig Olczewski, the father, who defends his inhuman action by blaming Deity for all that goes wrong.

The other members of the cast, all of whom are exceptional, are: Ann Reader as Masna, Lewis Willoughby as John Arkwright, Joseph Granby as Joe Jennings and Charles Manners in the role of the butler. Granby is splendidly cast and plays his part in a highly satisfactory manner.

"Hurricane" is a play of life, a play that takes men and women from among the rarks and illustrates once again that few of us know how our fellow beings live.

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