

AT CITY THEATRES

REGENT.

LADY BANDIT

BELLE STARR: A beautiful rebel in a story of the old South. Filmed in technicolour it has action, drama, romance.

BROOKLYN ORCHID: Two highly respectable citizens bring in a blonde on their fishing lines, and from then on she has them on a string! Comedy film with its full share of laughs.

Belle Starr is a colourful figure in American legend—a spirited southern beauty who cried "no surrender" to the Yankees and ran away to join a band of guerillas, high in the Ozark hills. How much is truth, how much legendary, and how much has been added by Hollywood may set a poser for historians, but as entertainment the film is up to standard.

The "little spitfire" publicity that Gene Tierney has recently been given made her an obvious choice for the role. Her alluring femininity as much as her rebellious pout lends credibility to her portrait of Belle who, with all her venom, is claimed to have had a distaste for killing, and would never resort to gunplay "when a smile or the flash of a shapely ankle would do the trick." Certainly her finery for her wedding in the rocky hide-out would have done credit to a Fifth Avenue bride. Despite a carefully cultivated Southern drawl, there are times when Miss Tierney's voice is undeniably shrill.

Lean, brown Randolph Scott also looks the part of the outlaw leader, and John Shepherd and Dana Andrews are seen as Belle's brother and Yankee lover. In smaller roles, Louise Beavers as the adoring mammy and Elizabeth Patterson as leader of a religious revival meeting, win praise. On the same programme are the first instalment of a thoughtful "March of Time" on India, and a new reel showing something of what our soldiers are doing and enduring in New Guinea.—B.G.

ST JAMES

"Meet John Doe." the title of the main film, is advice that should certainly be taken. Gary Cooper, quiet, shy and a little diffident, is admirably suited to take the leading role as an ordinary American citizen with a healthy love of true democracy and a decent way of living. In many respects this film is reminiscent of "Mr Smith Goes to Washington." Barbara Stanwyck does well in the feminine role. Rough riding and sharp shooting is featured in the supporting film, "Land of the Open Range," starring Tim Holt.

WINTERGARDEN

Popular music, pretty girls and clever comedy with some keen satire on political intrigue make for good entertainment in "Louisiana Purchase," which is running for a second week at the Wintergarden. Features of the film are the lovely dancing of Vera Zorina and the clever fooling of Bob Hope. The picture is photographed in technicolour. Short subjects complete the bright programme.

METRO

In "Mrs Miniver" Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon come to the screen again in an unhappy but magnificent documentary story of a middle class family's reactions to the London blitz. This film, the best of several of its type, is unconsciously dedicated to the endurance and courage of the ordinary people of all countries under fire and is directed with restraint, delicacy and understanding. Refreshing humour alleviates the tenseness of many ghastly situations and is never out of place. "The Lady or the Tiger" completes the programme.

REX

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REA players as Clark Gable, Joan Crawford, Fred Astaire, and Franchot Tone, "Dancing Lady," now showing at the Rex, is sure of popularity. Robert Taylor and Jean Parker appear in the second film on the programme, "Murder in the Fleet," which blends exciting action nicely with a generous share of romance.

SHAW PLAY

Repertory players acquitted themselves well last night when they presented Bernard Shaw's ever popular "Candida," under the direction of Daphne Roemermann, at the Albert Hall. The play has a relatively small cast; each member of which is called upon to take a fair share in the many dramatic situations which arise in a household where affections become sadly mixed, and where everyone is very much inclined to dub the other fellow "mad."

In the title role, Vera Tighe interpreted splendidly the poise, kindly tolerance, and shrewd insight of the minister's wife who knows human nature so well. Her whole bearing was so admirably in keeping with the Candida of one's imagination that she gave the impression she was being her natural self rather than playing a part.

As Morell, the minister, and March Banks, the poet, Alan Denby and Howard Steyning-Brown had difficult roles, but both succeeded in giving convincing performances and in preserving a certain dignity in scenes which could so easily have been comic rather than dramatic.

Dave Doyle missed no opportunities in the role of Candida's father. His splendid make-up helped him considerably in his breezy characterisation. Beryl Peake, as the little secretary, was suitably self-assured or nonplussed, as the occasion demanded, and Alan Burke was at his best in the final act, when he supposedly had indulged in too much champagne.—E.E.S.

CARLTON: The main newsreels, those which are of vital interest to us, come from the Australian fighting front of New Guinea, showing AIF troops taking Kokoda and the conditions under which they advanced. The other was taken when American and Australian reinforcements were landed in Papua. A good travel talk and a Disney cartoon round off a satisfying programme.

LYCEUM: Something of the shadowy mystery of the Far East, so often exploited in the films, is featured from yet another angle in "International Settlement," in which the leading roles are capably handled by Dolores del Rio and George Sanders. Adventure is the keynote too of "Professional Soldier," in which Victor McLaglan is perfectly at home in the leading role.

CIVIC: Alice Faye sings many songs, Jack Oakie is responsible for a fair share of comedy, and John Payne helps along the romance in "The Great American Broadcast," which centres about the evolution of radio broadcasting in the United States. Also on the programme is "The Duke of Westpoint," featuring Louis Hayward.

EMBASSY: In "Rings on Her Fingers," in which she makes her first appearance in a modern comedy role, Gene Tierney rises by means of impersonation from a poor little shop girl to a gorgeous debutante. As the latter, she vamps a millionaire (Henry Fonda), who falls an easy and willing victim to her wiles. Also on the programme is "Juke Box Jenny," a bright musical.

MAJESTIC: "Eagle Squadron," one of the most gripping air dramas to come out of Hollywood, glorifies the young American fliers who joined the RAF in the early days of the war. Robert Stack plays the boy who misunderstood the

can fliers who joined the RAF in the early days of the war. Robert Stack plays the boy who misunderstood the English until he fought shoulder to shoulder with them, and Diana Barrymore and John Loder also have large parts. Certain to appeal to lovers of a good mystery is the supporting film, "The Shadow Strikes."

HIS MAJESTY'S DIRECTOR: Lubitsch has contrived in "To Be, or Not to Be" to produce a bright comedy against the background of war-torn Poland. Leading roles are well handled by Jack Benny and the late Carole Lombard. "Powder Town," starring Victor McLaglan is an exciting film, the story having much to do with time bombs and sabotage.