The New-York Times.

AUGUST 20, 1918

'YIP! YIP! YAPHANK!' MAKES ROUSING HIT

Sergt. Irving Berlin's Musical Comedy at Century Has Points on the Service Shows.

ITS MUSIC BEST FEATURE

All of the Numbers Are Patriotic and Its Chorus "Maidens" Are One Long Laugh.

The induction of Irving Berlin into the National Army naturally marked the beginning of a new era in musical military affairs, and some of the results of the amalgamation were revealed at the Century Theatre last night in the shape of a rousing show given by and for the men from Camp Upton. Previous service shows have demonstrated that this type of entertainment requires no handicap from the musical comedy of Broadway, and the Uptonites, with the professional hand of Berlin at the helm, have turned out an entertainment which is in all respects the equal of the service shows which have gone before, and in several particulars their superior. "Yip! Yip! Yaphank!" is the name of it, and the audience of theatrical notables who made up the first night audience received it with the acclaim which only Broadway knows how to lavish.

Merely to say that these shows are as good as the average Broadway piece is grossly to undervalue them. "Yip! Yip! Yaphank!" for example, is vastly better. It has, of course, one immeasurable advantage over the commercial musical show, for the fact that it is being played by men in service can never for a moment be lost sight of. This fact is of greatest value, of course, when the "female" chorus is on the stage, and then, assuredly, no one can forget that these chorus maidens are soldiers. The chorus of "Yip! Yip! Yaphank!" is guaranteed to be one long laugh, whether one regards the third from the left, the fourth from the right, or the ensemble in general. Whoever picked its members was nothing less than inspired.

But the piece does not depend solely upon such obvious points for its merit. It is at its best when the music is playing, for Berlin is first of all a song writer, and a librettist second. Army life and its adjuncts are the theme throughout, and the author has found plenty about which to lyricize. The most appreciated number was an old one, Berlin's classic bugler lyric, but half a dozen others ran a close race for second place. Most of them will probably soon be more than familiar, for they are certain to find their way into vaudeville or musical comedy when "Yip! Yip! Yaphank" is permitted to pass.

The author appeared twice during the evening, once to sing the bugler number and again as a member of the despised kitchen police. The military police were there as well, and so were the cooks, the doctors, and the various other addenda of a training camp. There were also the girls from the "Follies," who are not generally regarded as a necessary camp adjunct. They brought with them the "Follies" principals, the best of whom were Ann Pennington and Eddie Cantor, impersonated by Privates Kendall and Cutner, respectively.

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