

Clara Kimball in an Emergency Role Makes a Hit.

Given but six hours in which to memorize the leading part in "A Girl's Best Friend," Miss Clara Kimball appeared at the Seattle Theatre last night and presented a well high finished performance. The death of Miss Emma Bunting's mother resulted in the collapse of the little star yesterday, and it was 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon before Stage Director Fred Wright could find a suitable substitute. The matinee performance was cancelled and the entire afternoon was spent in rehearsals in order that Miss Kimball might go on in the evening.

The house was sold out for both performances, and the money was refunded to the disappointed crowd that wanted to attend the afternoon show. It may be several days before Miss Bunting is able to again appear at The Seattle, and in the meantime Miss Kimball will continue in the leading role of the present bill.

Miss Kimball is well known to local theatre goers. She has appeared at the Third Avenue Theatre and was a member of the Lois Stock Company for some time. She is very pretty, and it didn't take many minutes for last night's audience to show appreciation of her efforts. The part assigned her requires no little ability to faithfully portray but she proved equal to the demands made upon her.

As to the play itself it is melodrama better than the average. Of course there is the stolen heiress and the choice collection of villains who are seeking possession of the papers, but most everybody except the ringleader reforms before the final curtain. Then his crimes drive him insane, he stabs his accomplice to death and shoots himself. The play contains enough genuine humor to make it interesting without the aid of a too generous supply of firearms. Raymond Payne as the village cut-up, and Miss Cora Wells as the sheriff's "little" sister, are the real fun makers. Payne also has a clever song specialty.

Willis A. Hall is the hero of the play, while the villainy is portrayed by Noel Travers, Charles J. Winninger and Miss Janet London. Travers has excellent opportunity for the display of emotions, while Winninger's character work is up to his usual standard.

The cast follows:

Steve Sterling	.....	Willis A. Hall
Ben Jackson	.....	Charles J. Winninger
John Reeves	.....	Noel Travers
Tommie Twaddles	.....	Raymond S. Payne
Mrs. Sterling	.....	Blanche Bryant
Isabel Gray	.....	Janet London
Babe Jackson	.....	Cora Wells
James Smith	.....	Frank E. Dae
Snider	.....	Fred B. Wright
Jinny	.....	Clara Kimball

Next week "Nettie the Newagirl" will be presented.