



AILEEN MAY AS "PETER PAN" AT THE LOIS

THE children of Seattle and many of the grown-ups have been looking forward with interest to the production of "Peter Pan" at the Lois Theatre, and their hopes will be realized today when the Barrie fairy story play opens, with Miss Aileen May playing the title role.

"Peter Pan" is a child's play. It is serious to children and grown-ups will realize that in their childhood such things were indeed serious to them also.

"Peter" is a boy who won't grow up. He always wants to be a boy and retain thereby his perpetual youth. He is a funny chap with a quaint philosophy. When "Wendy" asks him where he lives he replies:

"Second turning to the right and then straight on till morning."

"Wendy" asks him why he ran away from home.

"Peter" says, "I ran away the day I was born, because I heard father and mother talking about what I was to be when I became a man. I was to be president. I don't want to be president, I want always to be a little boy and to have fun. So I ran away and I lived a long time among the fairies."

"The fairies are nearly all dead now. You see 'Wendy,' when the first baby laughed for the first time, its laugh broke into a thousand pieces and they all went skipping about and that was the beginning of fairies, and now whenever a new baby is born its first laugh becomes a fairy."

"The children know such a lot now. They soon don't believe in fairies and every time a child says 'I don't believe in fairies,' there is a fairy somewhere that falls down dead."

"I live with the lost boys. They are the children who fall out of their perambulators when the nurse is looking the other way. If they are not claimed in seven days, they are sent far away to the Never Never Land to defray expenses. I'm captain. We're rather lonely. There are no girls, they are too clever to fall out of their prams."

The first scene of the play takes place in the nursery at the home of "Mr. and Mrs. Darling" and the three little Darlings, "Wendy," "John" and "Michael." "Peter's"

description of the Never Never Land has delighted the children, so when he offers to teach them to fly and show them the Land of Dreams they eagerly accept. Then follows a remarkable series of adventures in the Never Never Land. "Peter" and his band make a house for "Wendy" and she becomes the mother of the lost boys. When the pirate band, headed by "Captain Hook," comes, the children retreat to the Underground Care. "Captain Hook" is afraid of a Crocodile, having lost his hand (whence his name). The crocodile is harmless, however, for he has swallowed a clock and the ticking always warns the captain. Some day he fears, however, the clock will run down and then the crocodile will get him. The pirates finally capture the boys when "Peter" is away.

Just as the Pirates are going to make the boys walk the plank "Peter" comes to the rescue and by wonderful strategy succeeds in defeating the Pirate crew and releases his Faithful Boys and "Wendy."

After this exciting adventure the children fly away home. "Mrs. Darling" has kept the window open, knowing they will return some time. There is great joy in the family when the children arrive. "Mrs. Darling" cheerfully accepts the additions to her family and "Peter," who is strongly urged to stay, declines, as he does not want to grow up. "Wendy" promises, however, to visit him once a year and clean house for him.

One of the interesting characters in the play is "Nana," the faithful dog nurse, who had spotted "Peter" when he first came to the house and tries to give warning, but not being able to talk the white folks' language, he is unable to tell of his fears. "Nana," however, is mighty glad when the children come home.

Another distinguished character is "Tinker Bell," the fairy who is in love with "Peter." "Tinker Bell" cannot be seen in the flesh but she is always around and woman-like, tries to take revenge upon "Wendy" for stealing "Peter's" heart. She shows her jealousy and then her humble spirit in a most remarkable manner.

"Peter Pan" starts this afternoon. The children's matinees will be Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.