

OCTOBER 5, 6, 7, 8, 1952  
MATINEE SUNDAY

# *The Auditorium*

Direction of Will R. Corris, R. B. Corris

HERMAN LEVIN and OLIVER SMITH

*present*

## **Gentlemen Prefer Blondes**

*The Musical Comedy Smash*

Book by **JOSEPH FIELDS** and **ANITA LOOS**

Music by **JULE STYNE**

Lyrics by **LEO ROBIN**

Adopted from the Novel by Anita Loos

Production Designed by  
**OLIVER SMITH**

Costumes Designed by  
**MILES WHITE**

Dances and Musical Ensembles by **AGNES deMILLE**

Musical Direction: **JAY CHERNIS**

Musical Arrangements: **DON WALKER**

Vocal Direction and Arrangements: **HUGH MARTIN**

Lighting: **PEGGY CLARK**

Entire Production Staged by **JOHN C. WILSON**

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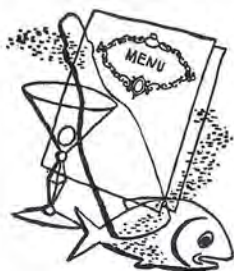
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GUS ESMOND	HARRY STOCKWELL
FRANK } of the Olympic Team	{ BILL McDONALD
GEORGE }	{ JIM HUTCHISON
SUN BATHERS	{ MARGOT MYERS
	{ PAT McMAHON
LADY PHYLLIS BEEKMAN	RETA SHAW
SIR FRANCIS BEEKMAN	HAL THOMPSON
MRS. ELLA SPOFFORD	MARION WEEKS
DECK STEWARD	JIM EILER
HENRY SPOFFORD	ERIC BROTHERSON
AN OLYMPIC	TED ADKINS
JOSEPHUS GAGE	RUFUS SMITH
DECK WALKERS	{ LORRAINE KENT
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# Welcome Playgoer!

With "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" we welcome you to the first production of what shapes up to be a great season here at the Auditorium Theatre.

With the new season, the program takes on a new name, THE PLAYGOER. What we hope to do is to make this more than a mere listing of cast and scenes. As plans materialize you will find more and more features designed to aid and abet your enjoyment of each play. Two such features are "Who's Who in the Cast" and Intermission Quiz. More are coming.

We hope that you will save your PLAYGOER magazines—as a hobby or for the settlement of future arguments as to who played what, and when. Perhaps you will save these programs because you, like us, are incurably sentimental about the theatre.

Your comments and your suggestions are most welcome; you'll find our address on the masthead. Meanwhile, relax and enjoy this fine play. We'll be here to greet you at every production here at the Auditorium and a similar PLAYGOER awaits you at the Arena Theatre.

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## THE CAST

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BILL, A DANCER	JOE LAYTON
GLORIA STARK	EVELYN TAYLOR
PIERRE, A STEWARD	DON GRODY
TAXI DRIVER	KAZIMIR KOKIC
LEON, A VALET	JOHN MINCIELI
ROBERT LEMANTEUR	ARTE JOHNSON
LOUIS LEMANTEUR, HIS SON	JIM EILER
MAITRE D'HOTEL	JOE LAYTON
ZIZI	SANDRA GERARD
FIFI	PEGGY RAMSDALE
COLES AND ATKINS	THEMSELVES
THE SINGER	JOHN GRODY
HEADWAITER	KAZIMIR KOKIC
MR. ESMOND, SR.	IRVING MITCHELL

### LADIES OF THE ENSEMBLE

Jeannette Aquilina, Mary Brady, April Gaskins, Sandra Gerard, Harriett Leigh, Susan Light, Mari Michele, Sally Mortimer, Mara Muller, Peggy Ramsdala, Violet Smith, Aundrey Von Clemm.

### GENTLEMEN OF THE ENSEMBLE

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## SEQUENCE OF MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT I

"It's High Time"  
 "Bye, Bye Baby"  
 Reprise: "Bye Bye Baby"  
 "A Little Girl from Little Rock"  
 "I Love What I'm Doing"  
 Dance  
 "Just A Kiss Apart"  
 "The Practice Scherzo"  
 "It's Delightful Down in Chile"  
 "Sunshine"  
 "In the Champ de Mars"  
 Dance  
 Reprise: "Sunshine"  
 "I'm A'Tingle, I'm A'Glow"  
 "House on Rittenhouse Square"  
 "You Say You Care"  
 Finaletto

Reprise: "It's Delightful Down in Chile"  
 "Mamie is Mimi"  
 "Coquette"  
 "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend"  
 "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"  
 "Homesick Blues"

"Keeping Cool With Coolidge"  
 "Button Up With Esmond"  
 Finale:

Reprise: "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"  
 Reprise: "Bye, Bye Baby"

Dorothy and Ensemble  
 Gus and Lorelei  
 Gus and Ensemble  
 Lorelei  
 Dorothy  
 Dorothy, Bill and Ensemble  
 Henry  
 Gloria  
 Sir Francis, Lorelei, Show Girls and Male Ensemble  
 Henry and Dorothy  
 Ensemble  
 Gloria and Taxi Driver  
 Ensemble  
 Mr. Gage  
 Dorothy  
 Henry  
 Lorelei and Ensemble

### ACT II

Dancing Ensemble  
 Gloria, Coles and Atkins  
 The Singer and Show Girls  
 Lorelei  
 Lorelei and Gus  
 Lorelei, Dorothy, Gus, Henry, Mrs. Spofford and  
 Mr. Gage  
 Dorothy, Bill and Ensemble  
 Lorelei, Show Girls and Ensemble

Lorelei, Gus and Ensemble  
 Entire Company

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Music for Dances Arranged by Trude Rittman

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Music published by J. J. Robbins & Sons, Inc.

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### UNDERSTUDIES FOR "GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES"

Understudies never substitute for listed players unless a specific announcement for the appearance is made at the time of the performance.

Lorelei Lee, Pat Wilkes; Gus Esmond, Rufus Smith; Dorothy Shaw, Mari Michele; Henry Spofford, Don Grody; Taxi Driver, Bill McDonald; Gloria Stark, Jeannette Aquilina; Josephus Gage and Mr. Esmond, Sr., William Forester.



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## SEQUENCE OF SCENES

### ACT I

- Scene 1: The French Line Pier in New York. A midnight sailing.
- Scene 2: The sun deck of the Ile de France. Third day out.
- Scene 3: The boat deck. The same day.
- Scene 4: Lorelei's suit on the Ile de France. Later that day.
- Scene 5: Paris. The Place Vendome. One week later.
- Scene 6: Champs de Mars—under the Eiffel Tower. Same day.
- Scene 7: The Place Vendome. Later that day.
- Scene 8: The Ritz Hotel in Paris . . . Lorelei's suit. That evening.

### ACT II

- Scene 1: The Pre-Catolan in the Bois. The same evening.
- Scene 2: A street in Paris. Later that evening.
- Scene 3: The Ritz Hotel in Paris. Lorelei's suite. Three A. M. the next morning.
- Scene 4: The Central Park Casino, New York. Ten days later.

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*(Answers on page 13)*

1



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3



3. Another of the hits to play here this season, "I am a Camera" stars .....



4. Truman Capote's controversial play hits a discordant note. The name is .....

5



5. Move over Hopalong! Make room for "....."

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**IVA WITHERS (Lorelei Lee)**

Miss Withers sang the role of Julie Jordan in "Carousel" for a total of five years—two of them in New York, two more on tour, and for a fifth season at the Drury Lane Theatre, London. A native of Winnipeg, Manitoba, she studied dancing with the Winnipeg Ballet but decided instead on a singing career. Her first Broadway assignment was in the ensemble of "Carousel," but the producers decided her coloratura soprano needed wider range and gave her the opportunity to play Laurie in "Oklahoma!" at the St. James Theatre. She returned to "Carousel" in the leading feminine role and retained it for the duration of that musical.

Miss Withers aided and abetted Bobby Clark in Michael Todd's "As the Girls Go." She played Julie Jordan with the civic opera companies of Detroit and Dallas, appeared with notable success this past summer in St. Louis as Magnolia in "Show Boat" and as Sally in Jerome Kern's immortal musical of that name.

← **IVA WITHERS**

## Who's Who

**HARRY STOCKWELL (Gus Esmond)**

Harry Stockwell is one of that large community of actors who started out in life to be a newspaperman. While serving as music editor of the Kansas City Journal-Post he was assigned to interview Howard Hanson, dean of the Eastman School of Music in Rochester. During the course of their conversation Hanson offered the reporter a scholarship at the school, and that was the end of his journalistic career.

Stockwell sang his first Broadway solos in Earl Carroll's "Vanities," a revue that numbered Jack Benny, Jimmy Savo, Patsy Kelly and Herb Williams among its principals. He introduced "Miss Lonely Hearts" in Irving Berlin's "As Thousands Cheer," appeared likewise on Broadway in George White's "Scandals" and opposite Joan Roberts in "Marinka."

Stockwell was the original Curly in the national company of "Oklahoma!" playing for a solid year at the Erlanger Theatre, Chicago. More recently he toured in "Finian's Rainbow" and "The Desert Song." His is the father of Dean Stockwell, who followed in his father's thespic footsteps by playing the title role in the motion pictures, "The Boy with Green Hair" and "Kim."

**ERIC BROTHERSON (Henry Spofford)**

Mr. Brotherson was a choral aide to Jack Buchanan and Evelyn Laye in "Between the Devil" when that musical carouse was sheltered by the Imperial in 1937, four years later found steadier employment as the comedian in "Lady in the Dark." Moss Hart's salute to psychiatry, "Make Mine Manhattan" provided him with yet another opportunity to exercise his comic and lyric gifts. In an off-beat activity he was a Puppeteer for Sue Hastings's Marionettes. He has been playing the role of Henry Spofford

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HARRY STOCKWELL →

## *in the Cast*

in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" ever since the musical was launched in the late Fall of 1949.

### **PAT WILKES (Dorothy)**

Pat Wilkes is that rara avis, a native New Yorker. She inaugurated her singing career as a lyrical aide to Ray Bolger in "Where's Charley?" then joined the national company of "Guys and Dolls" as understudy to the role of Miss Adelaide, which she played from time to time during the course of the tour. As an extracurricular assignment she played a number of night club dates with Maxie Rosenbloom, late of the fistie arenas. Miss Wilkes was a frequent guest on the Robert Q. Lewis television show, "The Show Goes On."

### **RETA SHAW (Lady Beekman)**

Miss Shaw, one time school teacher and night club entertainer, toured for two years with Mary Martin in "Annie Get Your Gun." On Broadway she has appeared in George Abbott's "It Takes Two" and the ANTA production of "Virginia Reel." During World War II she spent thirty months in Iceland, Belgium, France, Germany, as a recreational director for the American Red Cross.



### **KAZIMIR KOKIC (Taxi Driver)**

Mr. Kocic, once he got out of high school in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, served a year's apprenticeship at the State Theatre before being tapped for soloist at the Opera Ballet in Zurich. As a member of the Ballet Russe he danced all over Continental Europe and in Eng-

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## Who's Who in the Cast

land, eventually reached our shores and the hallowed stage of the Metropolitan with that organization. Returning from the rumpus in the South Pacific, he has danced in "Carousel," "Miss Liberty" and "Inside U. S. A."

### EVELYN TAYLOR (Gloria)

Miss Taylor graduated from the chorus of "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" to the role of Gloria during the New York engagement of the show. A native of Laurel, Mississippi, she attended Louisiana State University before deciding to become a dancer. She appeared on Broadway in "Allegro" and "Small Wonder."

### HONI COLES and CHOLLY ATKINS

Honi Coles and Cholly Atkins have danced and sung in the picture cathedrals of New York, London, Chicago and Baltimore, in variety halls and world over, and in night clubs throughout the country. They, too, are veterans of the entire three-year engagement of "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" in New York and on tour.

### MARION WEEKS (Mrs. Spofford)

Like many another headliner, Marion Weeks received her theatrical initiation in vaudeville with Gus Edwards. While still in her teens she played the Palace Theatre in New York billed as the school girl prima donna. She devoted three years to "The Student Prince" and "Blossom Time," then joined the national company of "The Women." She

appeared on Broadway in "Strange Bedfellows," toured with Melvyn Douglas in "Two Blind Mice," Miss Weeks is the sister of Ada May, star of "Rio Rita" and numerous other musicals of the Twenties.

### HAL THOMPSON

(Sir Francis Beekman)

Hal Thompson is a native of Toronto, who received his theatrical initiation there in Vaughn Glaser's stock company. He has spent the past fifteen years mainly in England and Australia and claims four thousand broadcasts to his credit in those two lands. Both London and Brisbane saw him in the American comedy, "Separate Rooms."

### RUFUS SMITH (Mr. Gage)

After serving in the Air Corps during the war Rufus Smith made his New York singing debut in Tchaikowsky's "Pique Dame." From opera to musical comedy was a short step for this tall baritone, who made it into Arthur Schwartz's "Park Avenue." He had principal roles in "Street Scene" and "Allegro," then played the shore patrol officer in the New York production of "Mister Roberts." Last season in "Paint Your Wagon" he introduced "They Call the Wind Maria."

### IRVING MITCHELL (Mr. Esmond)

Mr. Mitchell has passed forty years in the theatre, and recalls that he had his Broadway christening in Booth Tarkington's "Tweedles," with Ruth Gordon, Cornelia Otis Skinner and the late Gregory Kelley as accomplices.

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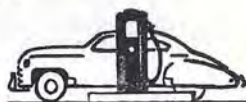
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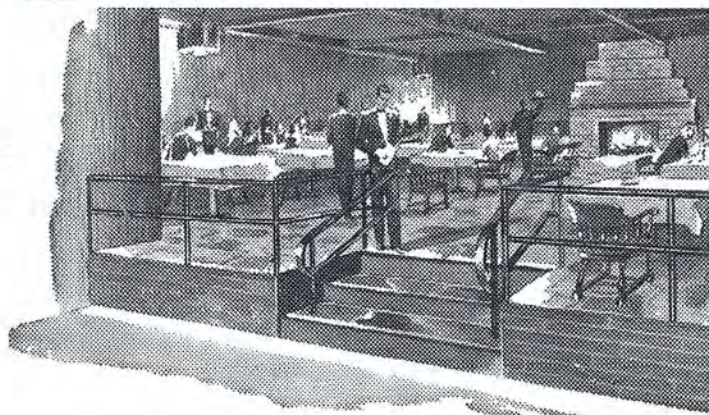
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