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make one uncomfortable to read them." (*Political Affairs*, May, 1947, p. 417.) Perhaps the moment has not yet come for a truly great film on Stalin, one that will convey to us the real love the Soviet people have for him as we see it expressed in the May Day newsreel on the same program, one that will bring us closer to the truth Stalin expresses when he joins in applause directed at him—to say, in effect, "Not I, but we."

BETTY MILLARD.

THEATER

A MYSTERY story, I am told by connoisseurs, stands or falls on its plot. By that criterion *Laura* stands. As dramatized by Vera Caspary and George Sklar from Miss Caspary's novel, its plot is clever and well articulated. Its turns are diverting to follow. Mystery fans will undoubtedly be contented with it, provided the surprises have not been spoiled for them by a preview in the film version.

As one who expects more from the theater, plot alone does not make a satisfying evening for me; *Laura* has little more to offer. The characters are scarcely on the credible side, and to the extent that they are credible they are repugnant. The dialogue is crisp and intelligent but a little too uniformly brilliant in the repartee among the main characters to serve for character differentiation.

The big news is the performance of Otto Kruger. As the aging sensualist who cannot hold the young woman he is infatuated with and who decorates his frustrations with epigrams and avenges them with subtle retaliations, he demonstrated in wonderfully managed interplay the conscious and unconscious mind struggling with an emotion.

Other good performances are turned in by Hugh Marlowe as Detective Macpherson and Grania O'Malley and Kay MacDonald in minor roles. But K. T. Stevens as Laura, despite her blonde hair, fine figure and pretty face, fails to give off the overpowering radiation that is supposed to make her a "collector of men" and an incitement to murder.

The apartment setting by Stewart Chaney deserved the applause gasp it drew from the audience as the curtain rise first revealed it.

ISIDOR SCHNEIDER.

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