
showboat musical "Showboat" and Paul Robeson centenary

Posted by FRAJM - 2010/02/20 02:18

commemorating the 100th anniversary of his birth. It kicked off with Showboat at the Academy theatre. I don't remember whether I had *ever* saw the whole thing, though I've caught snippets on TV. The presenter gave a digest of Robeson's film career. He said that when Showboat premiered in London, the audience gave Ole' Man River a two-minute ovation

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Posted by Jbcorner2 - 2010/02/20 02:18

Paul Robeson life was as multi-faceted as it was controversial. He was certainly (whether or not you agree with all of his political views) a man who was not afraid to speak his convictions and follow them. An interesting footnote, he was the first African-American college football player (a Rutgers graduate) to be named All-America. jb

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Wonderful comments. Hope to hear from others. And now must contrive to see the 1951 version. William Warfield is one of my idols.

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Posted by KingOpps - 2010/02/20 02:18

There is a televised version of the staged version. It was taped in the Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey around the late 80's and appeared on PBS television around 89 or early 90's. I can't recall the names of the actors in it except for one: Eddie Bracken as Captain Andy. Following it was a small 15 or 30 minute long documentary about it in which the people behind the scenes, the Director and such, explained that they tried to remain faithful to the original staged version back in 1927. ***** Books, Music, Movies on VHS, DVD and LD (buy 2 movies, get the third free), Free websites with unlimited webspace, \$50 Quotation Contest: (today's Sept. 14 answer: Gore Vidal) <http://www.spree.com/default.asp?x=marc>

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Posted by peterkr - 2010/02/20 02:18

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Posted by Howard Brazee - 2010/02/20 02:18

to anyone who likes Show Boat . It was shot as a silent and then sound added as an afterthought. Here's what it says

in the IMDb about this version: Filmed as a silent, with some of the scenes later reshot with dialogue and songs. For the premiere, a 18 minute prologue was added, featuring members of the original Broadway cast: Helen Morgan (Julie), Jules Bledsoe (Joe) and Tess Gardella (Queenie). The prologue's soundtrack exists, but some parts of the film are missing. Please check your attic. I'd love to hear from someone who has this version. Frank Richard Aloysius Jude Maloney <http://members.aol.com/fracm/> All over the room throats were being strained and minds broadened.

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Posted by Howard Brazee - 2010/02/20 02:18

Grayson, Howard Keel, Ava Gardner, and William Warfield inter alios) are the chance to see and hear Robeson, smile notwithstanding, sing his signature song staged with a chorus and the chance to see and hear Helen Morgan in her last movie reprise her stage role and sing some of the torch songs that were so identified with her. (Damn, that's a long sentence!)

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Posted by Robert Devereaux - 2010/02/20 02:18

: His smile was popular. What do you think about the scene in : the kitchen where : Robeson's character talks about doing as little work as : possible? It sort of goes : with stereotypes of the time, but when you're not your own man, : why not? Why was that song missing in other versions? As I recall from the liner notes for John McGlinn's wonderful 3-CD recording, this song was written for the movie. McGlinn includes it in his other tracks portion of the recording.

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Posted by Howard Brazee - 2010/02/20 02:18

Robeson's character talks about doing as little work as possible? That's quite different. There, he was being the lovable, sexy, feckless rogue. In the Ole' Man River sequence, I found his last-minute smile incongruous with his stern, concentrated expression through the song and the accompanying visuals.

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