

"ALIAS THE DEACON" SET FOR NEW HOLLYWOOD PLAYHOUSE

When the curtain goes up at Hollywood Playhouse, Monday evening, the 24th inst., it will reveal the dark interior of a moving refrigerator car on a freight train and will introduce the principal character in the comedy drama, "Alias the Deacon," at his favorite pastime as a card sharp.

The audience will travel with the company of hobos, catching glimpses of the passing scenery and incidentally having a hair-raising experience until the train reaches the tank town of Herrington, where much of the action of the play takes place. It is here that the lovable and erring hero seeks to live up to the title of the play, with results that furnish many thrills as well as constant laughter.

There is said to be a plot, which holds intense interest and abounds in amusing situations. Mystery and romance blend in the comedy in which the deacon is always the pivotal figure. The characters are human and among them "Bull" Moran, the knife-swallowing prize fighter, and "Slim" Sullivan, his manager, will be long remembered.

Berton Churchill, the deacon of the original New York production, has been engaged to come to Hollywood for this first offering at the new theater, and will arrive this week. With him will come Frances Underwood, who played the leading role opposite Mr. Churchill in New York. By good fortune Joseph Depew, the original boy, happened to be in Hollywood and has been engaged for the part.

Ann Fay, also a member of the original company, has been signed for the part in which she appeared in New York. As the cast numbers

twenty, sixteen stage folks now identified with Southern California will be engaged for the new cast, in which there are several exceedingly good parts.

A. Leslie Pearce, engaged as stage director for "Alias the Deacon," has made an international reputation. Starting his career in Australia, he went to London, where he received much of his training under the principal producers. Later he became identified with New York productions, and recently has proved his ability in local theaters. Mr. Pearce will begin rehearsals at an early date.

"It will be the policy of Hollywood Playhouse to present good, clean plays, with the strongest possible casts and most modern and beautiful settings," said Ed W. Rowland, managing director of the theater.

"We are trying the experiment of offering the best at the lowest possible cost to patrons, for we believe that we can make it pay."