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Ray, Gene  
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Irvin C. Miller's Brown Skin Models Big Hit In Cleveland

Blanch Thompson
Heads Huge Cast
At Globe Theatre

BY GENE RAY

CLEVELAND, O., Dec. 31—If you were among the hundreds who waited in the rain outside the Globe Theatre Sunday afternoon and evening while hundreds of other late-comers who packed the lobby and climbed on chairs were slowly admitted to see the show which opened there after months of "dark hours," you realize how powerful it is to have the magic name of "Irvin C. Miller's Brown Skin Models." There were times when press agents and paid agents who had big casts to draw crowds and to make the best bowing King's Nights, on the purpose of attracting patrons. But a few days ago, the advance agent stepped into Cleveland after an absence of more than two or three years and hung up a few posters saying that the Models would open here and that was it! Ah meow, must we? Yes nih!

In all the years Mr. Miller has been producing shows he has never disappointed his audiences; and in the case of the 1937 edition of his famous glorification of the Brown Skin women the rendition was well worth the wait, including the dreariness. The costumes, the dancing, the puppets, the general arrangement, in fact from the opening to the finale there was an unusual thrill that satisfied, pleased, interested and entertained.

Miss Blanch Thompson who has been the inspiration of Irvin C. Miller's productions still remains the jewel of the plays of Brown Skin women. Not only is she the beauty of the show but in the pinnacles of the show, around which are interwoven many interesting scenes supported by a bevy of shapely chorus lines in "Eve's willow!"

It was good to hear Alto Oats, the "Harlem Blue Man," and her partner do their familiar number and hear her cross the latest in "down home" opera (the blues) has no body else can. Jesse James, the world's only crack dancer almost stole the show in his whistling, song and dance number. It was not only an entertaining act, but showed what one can do with a will and brains in overcoming a physical handicap, particularly when given the chance. Irvin C. Miller seems to give all aspirants with ability.

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