

# Hazel Scott Stars In Latest Effort To Revive Vaudeville

"Priorities of 1942" Fills Big Demand for War Nerves

By DOLORES CALVIN

(Exclusive to Calvin Service)

## THE CAST

Hazel Scott, Phil Baker, Paul Draper, Willie Howard  
and Lou Holtz. Presented: Clifford Fischer.

NEW YORK—(C)—They brought vaudeville back to Broadway last Friday nite, at the Forty-sixth Street Theatre under a new name, "Priorities of 1942" and they brought our own Hazel Scott, boogie-woogie pianist and singer, as the star of the show, which turned out to be everything that was predicted for it.

Vaudeville needs pace and robustness. It is a wonderful medium if the producer and performers bring enthusiasm into their work. The result in "Priorities" was very comical indeed. With such A-1 clowns as Phil Baker, Lou Holtz and Willie Howard, frolicking about with the sort of freedom which a variety show offers, the show is naturally filled with merriment and good low-down fun.

Miss Hazel Scott does some fascinating and exhilarating things with the white piano. As nite-clubbers know, Hazel is among the authentic artists and is only 21 years old. Although Miss Scott secreted most of her famous Arthur Murray

ballad in the microphone, she swung her music like an old-timer.

But the microphones should all be thrown in the theatre alley, for no vaudeville actor or actress used them and they brought a bad light to the show. It made "Priorities" only half-related the theatre and not wholly vaudeville. Hazel looked as though she were performing in a niteclub instead of on a stage. Hazel is the only colored girl in the cast and the audience gave her a big hand when she came out looking gorgeous and youthful. She has said before on her 21st birthday, "I feel so mature now."

So the show goes on, the variety bill carrying dancers and even acro-

bats, French singers and a popular songstress. I doubt if there is anything funnier than Lou Holtz's story of the three stubborn men. But please don't ask me, it's the way he tells it! If you expect anything new in the way of comedy, the Forty-Sixth Street Theatre is no place for you. The humor is of the tried and true variety, with every quip a carefully tested one, but they have so handsomely withstood the ravages of time that they supply not only a beautifully nostalgic appeal for the old-time playgoers but are pretty wonderful in their own right.

All in all, with Miss Scott and the rest of the streamline cast, "Priorities of 1942" has a low admission scale and is given twice a day, and it might well make vaudeville pretty popular again.