

True Stories
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Stories

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IS EUROPE HEAVEN FOR SEPIA THEATRICAL STARS?

Sensational Reception of Colored Stage Stars in Continental Capitals Dwarfs Miniature Success Achieved in United States !!

By BEDA JEFFERS

Just what it is that makes Negro actors and actresses the rage of European cities has not yet been discovered. But it is absolutely certain that no group of stage people have met with the unrestrained ovations that have crowned the appearances of scores of colored entertainers.

It may be "it" or luck, or both, if you wish; but in the centers of Europe's most sophisticated life, it takes more than a mere stroke of dame fortune to call forth the plaudits of the world's most blasé audiences. Consequently, Josephine Baker, Paul Robeson, Nora Holt Ray, Noble Sissle and many others must be "producing the goods."

Theatrically speaking the center of the stage for the Negro has moved from New York and Chicago to Paris, Berlin and London!

Josephine Baker took the famous "Charleston" and "Black Bottom" and made them the national dances of Europe. Her rotating shoulders and hips before jazz-mad audiences

have crowned her the queen of craziest and hottest rhythm ever seen in Sunny Spain or romantic Italy.

She is still the toast of the continent and it has been said that she was the greatest drawing card in the old world. Tall and slender, a teasing, tantalizing brown, she has swept the men completely off their feet. Her string of admirers is composed of all classes, from waiters and bus-boys to dukes and counts.

Over here in America the name of Josephine Baker was entirely unknown. Her stage appearances

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On the Right—Bill ("Bojangles") Robinson and Adelaide Hall, the stars of "Brown Buddies," which is now playing at the Liberty Theatre of New York City. Neither of these stage figures has received the ovations abroad that the critics predicted and that their talents merit. Below—Madam Nora Holt, recently proclaimed the "Queen" of Theatrical Guest Nite at the Savoy Ballroom in New York City. She is an artist of international renown, having played engagements in London, Paris, Monte Carlo, New York and Chicago.

