

Ginger Rogers is ginger peachy

By ETHEL SIMMONS

The Ginger Rogers Show through Thursday at Detroit's Music Hall is a classy act, the classiest of which is Ginger herself.

The movie star remembered mostly for her co-starring roles dancing with Fred Astaire has a career that spans more years than we would like to recall for Ginger.

She still has a quick step and well-turned ankle.

Ginger came out for the opening number looking flamboyant in shoulder-length platinum hair and slithering black dress under a floor-length, fur-bordered coat.

From "That Was Then, This Is Now" and "Mon Cherie Amore," she went into "You Are the Sunshine of My Life" to let us know she's got what it takes for today's scene.

SHE WAS MORE like the Ginger we remember in "Highland Fling," looking positively girlish with her hair tucked under a tam o' shanter and wearing kilts, dancing as in the other numbers with her four male cohorts.

This routine was, she reminded us, from her MGM movie "The Barkleys of Broadway."

Review

Young comedian Rick Podell was dropped into the program at this point, to provide jokes about a bachelor's life and a potpourri of other subjects. He was at his best spoofing TV commercials.

Presumably this interruption was to give Ginger and her guys—Michael Cody, Jeff Parker, Ron Steinbeck and Jim Taylor—time to catch their breath before returning to the singing dancing scene. After a brief number when the men danced with an imaginary partner, Ginger returned for her most spectacular number "Top Hat, White Tie and Tails."

This was more like it, thought we who were waiting for the old nostalgia. She looked terrific in top hat and tuxedo with cane. Ginger and the foursome tap-danced in front of a background that had turned to mirrors.

IN ACT II "Love Will Keep Us Together" was another pop number of

ferred. This led to more familiar Rogers territory when she sang songs from her Broadway shows:

"Embraceable You" which she had introduced in the first act of a Gershwin show on Broadway; (They're Playing Songs of Love) "But Not for Me," and "Hello Dolly" in which she played 1,116 performances in New York and on tour.

Then it was "Walked into My Life" from the musical hit "Mame" in which she starred in London.

Ginger said most of her film roles have been non-musical, and a screen even dropped down from the ceiling so we could see a scene of her Oscar-winning performance in "Kitty Foyle."

The sequence was a romantic one with Dennis Morgan. She looked young and beautiful, with her page-boy hairstyle, and if the close-ups reminded us of her glowing good looks rather than her dramatic performance who cares?

DURING THE SECOND half of the show, her spectacular gowns (by Jean Louis) included ones in glittery gold that enhanced her hair, blue trimmed with fur, and pink with feathers. A movie medley ranged from "Love-

ly to Look At" and "Cheek to Cheek" to "Swing Waltz" and "Continental." Then it was into "Caroco" and South American costuming, with Ginger showing full-length legs, at last. At the end of the show, there were standing ovations from the audience, and effusive, heartfelt thanks from Ginger.

This was at Friday's opening night performance, a benefit for the Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts. The \$30-a-ticket event brought out many Music Hall supporters and Ginger Rogers fans.

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