

More Mountains, More Mice

IN view of the unparalleled size and magnificence of the theater, in view of the deafening blast of advance ballyhoo, in view, above all, of the money its sponsors had to spend, the inaugural program of the Radio City Music Hall was the most uninspired that could possibly be imagined. Patrons of Mr. Rothafel's (endearingly, "Roxy's") former theaters will remember those elaborately expensive twenty-minute interludes of boredom that used to precede the feature picture. Imagine a series of these stretched over an entire evening and you have Mr. Rothafel's present offering. Former Roxy patrons will remember, again, that there were always scenes from "Carmen" on the program. These become the *pièce de résistance* of the opening week's bill at Radio City Music Hall. Besides doubling the quantity of dancers, soldiers, matadors, real horses, cigarette girls, etc., Mr. Rothafel has introduced the interesting innovation of a dancer in a 1932 New York costume appearing in the midst of the "Carmen" revelers. In addition to the operatic scenes there are a choric dance for an antique Greek tragedy by Martha Graham and her dance group, Doctor Rockwell, with his medical lecture, and Ray Bolger, an amusing modern tap dancer. This indicates either a very catholic taste on Mr. Rothafel's part, or, what seems more probable, the complete absence of any taste at all. One suspects that his theory is that he should give his patrons Art and entertainment, and that these are two separate and distinct things which must be alternated in different acts: that entertainment has nothing to do with Art and that Art has nothing to do with entertainment. Or perhaps

Mr. Rothafel's is the much simpler theory that the important thing is to spend money, buy names, and put on elaborately lavish "spectacles" with enormous choruses, and to please everyone by having Martha Grammas for the highbrows and Dr. Rockwells for the lowbrows. But he may yet live to learn that congruity is not only an artistic canon, but a commercial one.

"The Nation." (N.Y.)
Jan. 11. 1933.