

History of the Play

Rose Marie was originally produced in New York and subsequently on March 20th, 1925, at Drury Lane, where it was an outstanding success and ran for 851 performances. In the original cast were Edith Day and Derek Oldham, as Rose Marie and Jim Kenyan respectively, with Billy Merson as Hardboiled Herman and Clarice Hardwicke as Lady Jane.

It was revived for a short season at Drury Lane, on September 12th, 1929, and ran for 100 performances. Edith Day and Clarice Hardwicke played their old parts, but Ray Russell played Jim and Gene Gerrard Herman.

A silent film was also produced in America, when Joan Crawford played Rose Marie, a very different type of character to what she has played during the last few years.

A special feature of the stage production was the "Totem Dance" this being the first of its kind in breaking away from purely team dancing and going into a mass ensemble effect.