

Walter, Rachmaninoff Share Concert Honors

BY ISABEL MORSE JONES

The Philharmonic program for a large audience in the auditorium last night had one of those rare performances that stay in the memory. Bruno Walter conducted Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and Richard Strauss. Rachmaninoff was the soloist playing his Rhapsody on a theme by Paganini. It was a brilliant concert all the way through. Orchestral dynamics are at their best when Bruno Walter holds this orchestra in his hands. Rachmaninoff, entering his 70th year, has phenomenal command over his chosen instrument.

SEVENTH LAUDED

The symphony was Beethoven's Seventh. The overture to "Coriolanus," his also. Bruno Walter's Beethoven is filled with understanding. The orchestra strode ever forward with the composer, the conductor suggesting subtleties of phrasing and pianissimi that were incredibly soft but emotionally effective. The momentum gained in the first three movements was accelerated in the finale to Presto but the players were equal to the demand as they usually are when Bruno Walter beckons.

Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody is entertaining but fragmentary. His playing is fascinating. It is so perfectly adjusted to his conservative-romantic being. But there are surprises in his compo-

sition always. The Rhapsody has a strictly American jazz episode that is entirely out of place in a set of variations on a Paganini theme but thoroughly enjoyable when played by the orchestra.

FINE ACCOMPANIMENT

Not often is there such an accompaniment as Walter gave Rachmaninoff. The conductor might have been playing the piano instead of the orchestra. The audience gave them both ovations and clamored in vain for an encore from the soloist. His own program here will be Feb. 22.

"Till Eulenspiegel" brought out virtuoso qualities in individual players. There were perfectly timed rubato, space and time given for beautiful phrasing and the artists' personal touch, but nothing of the shape of the work was lost. Bruno Walter's "Till" is mischievous but not wicked. He is Viennese, if you please, and loves life. The program will be repeated this afternoon.

Amusing Film on Two Screens

A new romantic comedy team made its appearance in the persons of Rosalind Russell and Walter Pidgeon in "Design for Scandal," which opened yesterday at United Artists and Fox Wilshire.