

THE PASSING SHOW OF 1922

(10th Annual)

Dates: September 20, 1922, to December 2, 1922

Type: A musical revue in two acts and 26 scenes

Venue: Winter Garden, NY

Music: Alfred Goodman

Book and lyrics: Harold Atteridge

Performances: 85

Quote from *The Shuberts and Their Passing Shows* by Jonas Westover, p. 44:

His “starring” moment came at the end of the first act [of *The Passing Show of 1922*], however, as a dancer. Playing the part of the “slave,” [Francis] Renault acted the part of a doomed servant who could only escape execution by beating other combatants in a life-or-death battle. The queen . . . demanded a fight, but she was so overcome with the brute strength of the slave that they locked together for a dance that was both passionate and risqué. Called “the most daring” dance in the show, the “Ballet Les Conquerants” was thrilling for audiences. “Few more suggestive dances have been attempted . . . and none of rarer excellence by the principals, nor with a setting half so lavish,” gushed one critic. To any audience member well acquainted with Renault’s act, the shock was not so much the sexually charged dance but, probably, the fact that he appeared as a man! One can only wonder what spurred this choice by the show’s creators, especially given the great accomplishment of Renault’s vaudeville turn, which gave the glamorous impersonator an over-the-top starring position as the pinnacle of womanly beauty.