

H A T I B I O F A L E S I A .

(A ballet in three scenes.)

By

Rosa Leo.

Argument - Princess Hatibi of Alesia, High Priestess in the temple of Bubastis, is beloved by a young priest who induces her to steal one of the great emerald eyes of the Cat God, which has the virtue of conferring great wealth and power on its possessor.

Scene - 1 -

The Temple of Bubastis.

A gigantic figure of the god back of stage and columns at either side. The eyes of the god have a baleful green light. Hatibi postures and dances first with a cistrum and finally does a slow waltz with a jet-black cat in her arms. As the dance draws to a close she goes up to the statue of the god and plucks one of the shining green eyes from the socket, flings the black cat from her, and amid flashes of lightening and loud peals of thunder rushes to meet her lover as the curtain comes down.

Scene - 11 -

(The Thames Embankment showing a section of Cleopatra's Needle with one of the Sphinxes)

Midnight.

For her sin of sacrilege Hatibi is, down the ages, condemned to seek the emerald in order to restore it, her false lover having fled with it across the sea where his descendants are rich and powerful. They guard the gem believing it to be the source of their good fortune. The last of the descendants of the renegade priest, a young man, a viveur, in passing gazes up at the Sphinx and evokes the Spirit of Old Egypt while holding the emerald in his hand. The eyes of the Sphinx suddenly gleam with an emerald glow, and a lovely grey shadowy figure detaches itself from the back of the Sphinx where she has been lying prone and slowly dances before the astonished man who, still clutching the emerald regards her from afar. She gradually approaches him and as the dance finishes she gives him a long kiss and snatches the jewel from his relaxing hand.

Curtain.

Scene - 111 -

The ruined Temple of Bubastis.

The young man maddened by the kiss of Hatabi determines to find her and goes to Egypt where he hears that excavators have discovered in the ruined temple of Bubastis the superb mummy-case of the Princess Hatibi of Alesia, the high priestess who, tradition tells, stole the emerald eye of the god at the instigation of her lover, a young Priest. The young man goes to inspect the mummy-case and looking at the painted portrait on the cover recognizes it as that of the Sphinx woman of his dreams. He bribes the guardians of the treasure and returns at midnight to pry open the mummy-case and recover the lost talisman; the cover falls back revealing in the moonlight the figure of Hatibi which is seen to move and she eventually emerges from the case and dances before him. She falls in love again with the re-incarnation of the young priest and at the end of her dance, torn betwixt her love and the urge of the god, whose baleful eyes seem to watch her, she is about to let her lover escape and is showing him a way when there is a deep roll of thunder, and a flash of lightning proceeding from the idol lays him dead at her feet. The scene is blotted out. Gradually a shaft of moonlight steals across

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"Libretto" (?)

Submitted by

Vern Aldrich

Peeble

Rosa

my
Grandmother

refi -

Leo Chernavsky

(Uncle)

if possible

interest

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the stage showing Hatibi once more in the mummy-case and
the idol shattered to fragments. (A low drawn wail in the
music must suggest her anguish during the blotting out.)

Curtain.