

**OUTDOOR THEATERS: THE
DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION
AND USE OF OPEN-AIR
AUDITORIUMS**

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Outdoor theaters: the design, construction and use of open-air auditoriums by Frank A. Waugh

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FRANK A. WAUGH

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COLLEGE THEATER AT POMONA, CALIFORNIA

815

O U T D O O R
T H E A T E R S

THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND
USE OF OPEN-AIR AUDITORIUMS

FRANK A. WAUGH



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TO MY ASSOCIATE
PROFESSOR ARTHUR KENYON HARRISON

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS CONSTANT HELP AND
NEVER-FAILING SYMPATHY, THIS VOLUME
IS MOST CORDIALLY INSCRIBED

OUTDOOR THEATERS

In direct relation to the redeeming of country and industrial districts through constructive leisure, is the founding of outdoor theaters for the people.

In the country, at present, there are few, or none, which are not privately owned, built usually for city "colonies" in the country. Yet no better investment—in pleasure and the resultant attraction of wealth—could be made by a country community than an outdoor theater, properly conducted during the outdoor season. This consideration I suggest to the officers of all local Granges. The MacDowell outdoor stage at Peterborough, N. H., is an excellent precedent for the founding of such theaters. The summer circuit of the Coburn Players demonstrates an already nationwide demand for them.

The glory of the Greek outdoor theater need only be referred to, in suggestion. Under the sun and stars, as nowhere else, dramatic art becomes convincing to the people.

In cities, the public parks and commons should certainly be provided with such theaters: an existing prejudice to the contrary in some cities is merely the relic of individualistic or Puritanical ideals. Since the parks are for the people's civic pleasure, they should be made full and efficient instruments, by means of civic art. The outdoor theater at Berkeley, California, has proved itself the noblest direct art influence in the San Francisco region. It has also, in performances there by Sarah Bernhardt, Margaret Anglin, Maude Adams, Robert Mantell, and

Outdoor Theaters

other professional companies, illustrated the leadership of the theater's art, even under the commercial conditions which now prevent it from performing such public service universally.

PERCY MACKAYE.

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