

**THE COMMUNITY  
THEATRE IN THEORY  
AND PRACTICE,  
WITH ILLUSTRATIONS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649757053

The Community Theatre in Theory and Practice, with Illustrations by Louise Burleigh

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**LOUISE BURLEIGH**

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**THE COMMUNITY THEATRE**



Photo by Bennet. Courtesy of Vagabond Players.

**THE PATCHWORK CURTAIN WHICH SUPPORTS THE "VAGABOND" IDEA**  
A lovely and simple substitution for a heavy velvet curtain.

THE  
COMMUNITY THEATRE

IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

BY  
LOUISE BURLEIGH

*With Illustrations*



BOSTON  
LITTLE, BROWN, AND COMPANY  
1917

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Published, September, 1917

Norwood Press  
Set up and electrotyped by J. S. Cushing Co., Norwood, Mass., U.S.A.  
Presswork by S. J. Parkhill & Co., Boston, Mass., U.S.A.



TO  
CHARLOTTE ELIZA BURLEIGH  
WHOSE GRATEFUL NIECE CAN NEVER SUFFICIENTLY  
THANK HER FOR A LIVING BELIEF  
IN THE  
SPIRIT OF FELLOWSHIP

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## PREFATORY LETTER

DEAR MISS BURLEIGH :

May I thank you for letting me see the proof sheets of your book "The Community Theatre"? And may I congratulate you and your readers on the fact, rare in this field, that this book of yours has been produced by one who is a worker both in the theatre and in the community; for the fusion of the arts of the one with the aspirations of the other is the practical ideal of the community theatre.

Actual experience in both fields should, therefore, precede the making of books on this most practical subject. "After the practice — the theory," as Gordon Craig writes at the head of his journal, *The Mask*. Yet this is too seldom the case; for the workers most skilled and effectual are nearly always too definitely engaged in experiment and creation to become commentators on their work; so