

**THE THEATRE
THROUGH ITS
STAGE DOOR**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649009237

The theatre through its stage door by David Belasco & Louis V. DeFoe

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DAVID BELASCO & LOUIS V. DEFOE

**THE THEATRE
THROUGH ITS
STAGE DOOR**



David Belasco as He Appears To-day

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*The Theatre
Through Its
Stage Door*

By *David Belasco*

Edited by
LOUIS V. DEFOE

BENJAMIN BLOM



New York/London

First Published 1919
Reissued 1969 by
Benjamin Blom, Inc., Bronx, New York 10452
and 56 Doughty Street, London, W.C. 1

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 69-56534

Printed in the United States of America

CONTENTS

CHAP.		PAGE
	A FOREWORD	ix
I.	THE THEATRE THROUGH ITS STAGE DOOR	I
II.	THE EVOLUTION OF A PLAY	41
III.	DEVELOPING THE BEST IN THE ACTOR	90
IV.	THE PROBLEM OF THE CHILD ACTOR	127
V.	IMPORTANT AIDS TO THE ACTOR'S ART	161
VI.	THE DRAMA'S FLICKERING BOGY--THE MOVIES	196
VII.	HOLDING THE MIRROR UP TO NATURE	224

ILLUSTRATIONS

DAVID BELASCO AS HE APPEARS TO-DAY	<i>Frontispiece</i>
ENTRANCE TO DAVID BELASCO'S STUDIO ABOVE THE BELASCO THEATRE	<i>Facing p.</i> 10
DAVID BELASCO GIVING STAGE INSTRUCTIONS TO FRANCES STARR AT A REHEARSAL DURING THE RUN OF "MARIE-ODILE"	" 11
DAVID BELASCO IN THE WORKROOM OF HIS STUDIO IN THE BELASCO THEATRE, BEFORE THE FIRE- PLACE WHICH CONTAINS SEVENTY-THREE TILES TAKEN FROM THE ALHAMBRA AT GRANADA, SPAIN	" 40
MRS. LESLIE CARTER AND HAMILTON REVELLE . . .	" 41
DAVID BELASCO AT WORK ON THE PRELIMINARIES OF A PLAY IN THE WORKROOM OF HIS STUDIO	" 50
DAVID BELASCO WITH THE HEADS OF HIS ARTISTIC AND MECHANICAL DEPARTMENTS	" 51
DAVID BELASCO READING THE MANUSCRIPT OF A NEW PLAY, "THE LILY," IN THE REHEARSAL- ROOM UNDER THE AUDITORIUM OF THE BELASCO THEATRE	" 70
DAVID BELASCO EXPLAINING TO ENTIRE COMPANY DETAILS WHICH HE WISHES TO ACCOMPLISH IN ONE OF THE ACTS OF "TIGER ROSE"	" 71
LENORE ULRIC	" 92
FRANCES STARR	" 92
DAVID WARFIELD	" 92
MRS. LESLIE CARTER	" 92
SCENE FROM METROPOLITAN OPERA-HOUSE PRO- DUCTION OF "THE GIRL OF THE GOLDEN WEST"	

ILLUSTRATIONS

WHICH MR. BELASCO DIRECTED AND FOR WHICH PUCCINI WROTE THE OPERATIC SCORE . . .	<i>Facing p.</i> 93
FRANCES STARR IN THE FINAL ACT OF "MARIE-ODILE," BY EDWARD KNOBLOCK	" 110
BLANCHE BATES AS THE GIRL, FRANK KEENAN AS JACK RANCE, IN DAVID BELASCO'S DRAMATIC PRODUCTION OF "THE GIRL OF THE GOLDEN WEST," IN 1905	" 111
DAVID BELASCO WITH THE CHILDREN OF THE "DAD- DIES" COMPANY AT LUNCHEON IN THE BELASCO THEATRE GREENROOM DURING REHEARSALS . .	" 132
"THE RETURN OF PETER GRIMM"	" 133
SCENE IN THE AUCTION STORE IN "THE AUCTIONEER"	" 160
THE ELECTRIC SWITCHBOARD OF THE BELASCO THEATRE, THE LARGEST IN AMERICA	" 161
THE "LIGHT BRIDGE" OF THE BELASCO THEATRE .	" 172
MACHINE-SHOPS IN THE SECOND SUB-CELLAR UNDER THE BELASCO THEATRE	" 172
THE SHOPS WHERE MR. BELASCO'S LIGHTING AP- PARATUS IS MANUFACTURED AND EXPERIMENTS IN STAGE-LIGHTING ARE CONSTANTLY BEING CARRIED ON	" 173
SCENE FROM ACT II OF "THE GOOD LITTLE DEVIL," SHOWING MARY PICKFORD, NOW A NOTED MO- TION PICTURE STAR, AND ERNEST TRUOX . .	" 198
DAVID WARFIELD AS SIMON LEVI IN "THE AUC- TIONEER"	" 199
PROBABLY THE BEST PICTURE OF DAVID WARFIELD AS ANTON VON BARWIG IN "THE MUSIC MASTER"	" 216
DAVID BELASCO AND HIS MOTHER, REINA MARTIN BELASCO	" 224
DAVID BELASCO AT TWENTY	" 224
DAVID BELASCO AT THIRTY-TWO	" 224
DAVID BELASCO AT FORTY	" 224
ROBERT T. HAINES AS KARA, BLANCHE BATES AS YO-SAN, IN "THE DARLING OF THE GODS" . .	" 225

A FOREWORD

THE chapters in this book are the result of occasional leisure hours extending over the past two years. They have been suggested by what is, I believe, the experience of others who, like myself, have been closely identified during a long period with the artistic direction of the dramatic stage.

Because it does not seek aid in the form of government subsidy or millionaire endowment, the theatre in the United States, as in England, is regarded as a private enterprise. But when the theatre is rightly conducted it must acknowledge grave public duties and responsibilities which, I think, are now recognized by those among its workers who rightly understand it as an art and strive to serve its esthetic purposes. They are members of a public, or at least a quasi-public, profession. However sincere may be their desire for privacy, they are, in a sense, public personages to whom other persons assume the right—and also should be accorded the right—to come for information or advice.

In one of the following pages I have said that “the observation and experience of those of