

THE INSURGENT THEATRE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649614561

The Insurgent Theatre by Thomas H. Dickinson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

THOMAS H. DICKINSON

**THE INSURGENT
THEATRE**

THE INSURGENT THEATRE

**THE
INSURGENT THEATRE**

THOMAS H. DICKINSON



NEW YORK
B. W. HUEBSCH
MCMXVII

COPYRIGHT, 1917, BY
B. W. HUEBSCH

908
D553
i

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO MY WIFE

371553

PREFACE

IN this book it has been my purpose to treat the recent events in the non-commercial theatre as these refer to organization and management. I have purposely made no attempt to deal with the literary aspects of plays written for and produced by the so-called "insurgent" theatres. This matter would raise a large and interesting set of questions, which are not, in my judgment, while the plays are in a condition of development, ripe for present treatment. Those who are interested in play lists will find repertories of the theatres represented in this book in the Appendix. I wish to express my gratitude to the directors of theatres and companies for the courtesy with which they have provided me with information. I am under particular obligation to Miss Helen Arthur, Mr. Sheldon Cheney, Mr. Charles Recht, and Mr. G. P. Baker for general material, and to Mr. John B. Andrews for information as to child-labour laws as they apply to the theatre.

THOMAS H. DICKINSON.

CONTENTS

| CHAPTER | PAGE |
|---|------|
| I THE OLD THEATRE AND THE NEW | 9 |
| II EXPERIMENTS IN SUBSIDY | 25 |
| III THE FEDERATED AUDIENCE | 44 |
| IV BREAKING A NEW FURROW | 57 |
| V THE LITTLE THEATRE | 75 |
| VI THE THEATRE AND THE LAW | 85 |
| VII DRAMATIC LABORATORIES | 97 |
| VIII THE CHILDREN'S THEATRE | 118 |
| IX PIONEERS | 128 |
| X THREE NEW YORK THEATRES | 151 |
| XI NEW IDEAS OF CIRCUIT | 186 |
| XII THE NEW ADVENTURE | 199 |
| XIII ART AND OUTLOOK | 214 |
| APPENDIX (PLAY LISTS) | 227 |
| INDEX | 245 |

THE INSURGENT THEATRE

I

THE OLD THEATRE AND THE NEW

A CHICAGO critic, writing of Dunsany's "The Gods of the Mountain," said that the seven beggars were seven little theatre "movements" and the mountain gods were an angry American public come to turn them all to stone. Those who venture on experiments into new forms of theatrical activity may expect a speedy judgment. Whether like that of the Chicago writer this judgment withers them root and branch or whether it warms them with a more sympathetic approval depends upon a great many things, some of them in the critic's mind, some in general circumstances, and a great many in the personality and equipment of the reformer.

In this book I am trying to give some form to events of a half dozen years in the American