

**PLAYS FOR
POEM-MIMES**

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Plays for Poem-Mimes by Alfred Kreymborg

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ALFRED KREYMBORG

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POEM-MIMES**

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By

ALFRED KREYMBORG

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Author of "Mushrooms"

THE OTHER PRESS

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gift
D. C. Quirk
7-23-66

TO MY LASS AND LAD:
LOUISE NASHER
AND
HERMANN KREYMBORG

Plays for Poem-Mimes might be defined as pantomime acting or dancing of folk or automatons to an accompaniment of rhythmic lines, in place of music. In view of the fact that in all these experiments the characters speak (with the exception of the children in *When The Willow Nods*, the wife in *Jack's House*, and the shadows in *Blue and Green*), little more than a semi-dance of gesture can be added by them to their delivery of the lines, but free dancing might be indulged during the interludes of silence. It is imperative that the reading tempo and the introduction of pantomiming shall adhere to the sense connotation rather than the rhythm of the lines. I have to make this small excursion into the realm of professorial instruction because the good people who have been kind as well as the good people who have been unkind to what is commonly and erroneously termed, free verse, have slipped into the error of scanning rather than of feeling the line divisions I offered in *Mushrooms*. If homogeneity of some sort exists in the present experiments, possibly it runs through the general undercurrent which carries words, silences and pantomiming along, the musician's term for which is organ-point. I duly urge my apology for these ejaculations—especially as that benign entity, contradiction between an author's preface and production, is certain to come between us.

A. K.

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WHEN THE WILLOW NODS
(A Dance-Play)