

diverting." — NEW YORK TIMES, June 6, 1908.

"Now this latest effort by the author of 'The Scarecrow' has received high critical praise from all sides. The fact remains that, to me, this melodrama of Kentucky mountain life seemed strained, unnatural, and for most of the time unintelligible. Its dialogue did move with a certain rhythmical beauty; but this cannot atone for the silly and rather slow plot and the language which Mr. MacKaye claims to be an approximation of that spoken by the mountaineers. He calls it a 'noble illiteracy'." — John Farrar, BOOKMAN, March, 1924.

"Percy MacKaye has written a play of varying interest in 'This Fine-Pretty World' — a study of manners, customs and language deep in the Kentucky mountains, a bit of folklore with certain minor digressions by the author. Mr. MacKaye, emerging from a lengthy study of Kentucky mountaineers, came to the theatre with an interesting story to tell, but he has not been quite content just to tell it. He has tried to give it a touch of cosmic significance and has thereby weakened it just a little as drama. It is, however, a play with a good deal of sturdy force, and last night's audience at the Neighborhood Playhouse received it with unmistakable enthusiasm. Mr. MacKaye has not spared his mountaineers in the writing — they are revealed as an ignorant, superstitious and immoral lot. With all his attempt to get down to the heart of them, however, Mr. MacKaye never quite dissipates the feeling that he is putting his people through their paces rather than permitting them to do their own trotting. There is the constant suggestion that his folk are being shown under glass." — NEW YORK TIMES, December 27, 1923.

PERCY MACKAYE

The Canterbury Pilgrims. MACMILLAN.
The Scarecrow. MACMILLAN.
This Fine-Pretty World. MACMILLAN.

This son of a good earlier American playwright has long been known as a poet and poetical dramatist. He was born in New York City in 1875. He studied at Harvard University and in Europe. He has written opera librettos, masques, and has now turned to a study of the Kentucky mountain folk and to a translation of their peculiar dialects and manners into realistic drama. His latest play produced was "This Fine-Pretty World".

"It ['The Scarecrow'] is a play of vigorous imaginative richness and often of colorful felicitous diction. The satire may be readily appreciated but is not an essential to enjoyment. For the story and the manner of telling are in themselves highly

"Mr. MacKaye has adapted a style of poetic swing in making his dialogue and he has employed Biblical passages quite frequently to prove and disprove the arguments at hand.

"His mountaineers are not folk to express themselves in merely freakish and simple bad grammar. They are men and women quite abundantly equipped in vocabulary. They merely transpose their words and go ahead. They speak and act like no Kentucky mountain men and women we have known." — Q. M., NEW YORK WORLD, December 27, 1923.

"So much could be gleaned by dint of diligent listening to the dialect, laid on so thickly that at times it seemed distorted. Their talk was a weird compound of superstition, scripture and the more lurid figures of Elizabethan speech. MacKaye who has woven a play out of the Canterbury

tales, seemed to find himself quite at home in the midst of such Chaucerian dialogue, and let his characters run on almost without stopping. It may be art but it's not pretty." — NEW YORK HERALD, December 27, 1923.

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