

DAVID BELASCO

The Return of Peter Grimm. Included in *Modern American Plays.*

David Belasco was born at San Francisco in 1859. He is the master technician of the American theatre. His productions are countless and number among them some of our most successful as well as our most artistic American efforts. He has been active as a dramatist during his entire life, having written plays himself, collaborated on many others, and adapted still more from foreign languages. With H. C. De Mille he wrote "The Charity Ball", with John Luther Long "The Darling of the Gods", with George Scarborough, "The Son-Daughter". It was he who adapted "Kiki". He wrote "The Girl of the Golden West". His life in the theatre has been a long and a brilliant one, and he has not lost the magic touch.

"Only a single dominant figure out of these early days survives—David Belasco, master of traditional finesse, inheritor, practitioner and interpreter of that past as well as occasionally willing student of the new, living link between two distant and unacquainted generations. Others there are, apprenticed to the pioneer traditions—call-boys, program boys, chips of the old block, youngsters trained under the Elder Showmen and absorbing some of their manners, methods, secrets. That lore they still apply today by rote, by shrewd adaptation to new conditions, with even an occasional recognition of the theatre's wider vista."—Oliver Saylor in *Our American Theatre.*

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