

# CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN DRAMA

Committee: Kenneth Macgowan, Chairman; Owen Davis, Jesse Lynch Williams, Alexander Woolcott.

## Sixth Group

### GEORGE S. KAUFMAN AND MARC CONNELLY

*Dulcy.* Included in *Longer Plays by Modern Authors*. Also published by PUTNAM, and by FRENCH.

*To the Ladies!* Included in *Contemporary American Plays*. Also published by FRENCH.

At present writing these young manufacturers of satirical comedy can scarcely be considered separately. George S. Kaufman is of the dramatic department of the New York "Times". He was born at Pittsburgh, educated in the public schools, and has been at one time or another on the staffs of various papers. Marc Connelly is also a newspaperman, although for the last few years he has been a free lance writer, and a frequent contributor to the humorous magazines. He was born at McKeesport, Pennsylvania, and was educated at Trinity Hall School.

These two young men are definitely associated with the smart columnist circle of New York. Their recent play "Beggar on Horseback" is a fine piece of experimental satire.

"Finally I wish to praise the authors of 'Beggar on Horseback' most heartily for

this, that they laugh at fatuousness and gross materialism, at triviality of mind and soul, at stubborn stupidity and dishonor no longer conscious of itself, not as these qualities are contrasted with some specious moralistic idealism, but as they are contrasted with art, with the eternal creative spirit, with the quest of him who is driven despite himself to pursue that beauty which is also truth. This central motivation they found, of course, in the original of Paul Apel. But I am glad that they dared so fully and explicitly to keep it in their American version.

"I must not neglect to mention the 'Morning-Evening', a four-page newspaper distributed to the audience during, at least, the early performances of 'Beggar on Horseback'. In this quite precious travesty of a contemporary yellow sheet, prepared exclusively for morons, the mentality of both the makers and the consumers of such printed matter is exhibited and excoriated with a touch that is among the best and most promising and most wholesome things in American letters."—Ludwig Lewisohn, NATION, February 27, 1924.

"It is a funny play ['To the Ladies!']; but it is also a big play in that it applies the bright edge of satire to a few of the most popular idiocies which all good citizens are expected to exalt."—Kenneth Andrews, BOOKMAN, May, 1922.

"'Dulcy' is a breezy comment on the here and now, as up to the minute as the column in this morning's newspaper, and in general content it covers much the same ground. It is a haphazard sort of play into which the authors have tossed a glittering array of bright odds and ends, plucked at random from the life about us. This lack of coherent dramatic plan at least has the virtue of leaving the playwrights free to take a fling at whatever occurs to them. A number of things occur to them. As the evening goes on their fancy moves in wider and wider circles until the play really becomes a robust and rather sweeping satire of manners—one of the first and one of the best to reach our stage in many seasons."—**Kenneth Andrews, BOOKMAN, October, 1921.**