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"PEER GYNT

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there I had a vivid impression of the hard work involved in producing this play. Throughout the rehearsal people were climbing and moving in every possible place from the floor to the ceiling, fixing lights, trying new positions for scenery, moving ladders, calling for a hammer, and in general taking not the least notice of the few people repeatedly speaking lines on the stage. "We'll take that again. There was a really very unpleasant pause there," called the producer. Again, please, and very much faster!" So over they went again, and the noise and the movement all round roared on and no one took the least notice of anyone else.

PEER GYNT covers a period of 40 to 60 years; in this production the main part was played in two sections, the young man by one player and the old Peer by a second player. I am sure that I should have found the pretended transition from youth to age in one player at least as comfortable as I found the change from one player to another. It seems to me that the old Peer makes unfair demands on a new player; someone else pointed out, I think fairly, that the early Peer has a large advantage over his successor, purely on the grounds of his youth: it is possible to look benignly on a young man making a fool of himself; but an old man making a fool of himself is an object of scorn or at least impatience.

THE two-piano music robbed this Peer Gynt of the operatic quality a full production with music can have. And in addition the small stage did certainly have a cramping effect on the scope and movement of the play.

I heard others grumbling about the bicycle, complaining that this was an unwarranted liberty to take with Ibsen.

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The Stranger