THE MOUNTAINEERS

Present

A Thousand Years Ago

By PERCY MACKAYE

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Their Twenty-Second Annual Spring Play

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June 6 and 13

at

2:00 o'clock
Daylight Saving

1948

FOREST THEATER

"Here in China, the world lies a-dream, like a thousand Years ago, and the place of our dreams is eternal."

A THOUSAND YEARS AGO

A Romance of the Orient

By Percy MacKaye

Presented by the Mountaineer Players of Seattle in Their Forest Theater at Kitsap

Directed by LOIS BEIL SANDALL

CAST OF CHARACTERS – IN ORDER OF SPEAKING

CAPOCOMICO, leader	*Vagabond Players from Italy*	HARRIET WALKER
SCARAMOUCHE		BLANCHE HARGOOD
PANTALOON		MARION CASTOR
PUNCHINELLO		PHYLLIS CAVENDER
HARLEQUIN (silent)		MABEL FURRY
CALAF, PRINCE OF ASTRAKHAN		ROBERT NEUPERT
BARAK, SERVITOR		J. M. FULLER
ALTOUM, EMPEROR OF PEKIN		RONALD TODD
TURANDOT, his daughter, PRINCESS OF PEKIN		DOROTHY PETRICH
ZELIMA, her slave		OLA TODD
CHANG, HAREM GUARD		KENNETH TELLER

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LORDS OF ROYAL DIVAN	EMMA KMENT, ARLEE SNIDER
OLD MERCHANT AND WIFE	JOHN FINCKE, DOROTHY FULLER
SOLDIERS	RAYMOND PETRICH, THOMAS KITTLEMAN
PRIESTS	HELEN UNDERHILL, BARBARA MARTIN
PEASANTS	WILLIAM LAHR, DOROTHY LAHR
BEGGAR	TERRY TODD

DANCERS

Chinese Spear Dancers ..... DAVID ADAMS, GORDON PFISTER

SLAVE MAIDENS

NANCY BICKFORD, BUNNY CASTOR, JOYCE MORGAN, VIOLA NEUPERT, JANE OSTERHAUT, NEDRA POLK, LOUAINE SHRUM, JANET SLAUSON, MARI SNIDER

SCENES

ACT I – City Gate at Pekin.

ACT II – Scene 1: Balcony and garden, Imperial Harem.
Scene 2: Great Hall of the Emperor.

ACT III – Scene 1: Balcony and garden of Imperial Harem.
Scene 2: Bedchamber in the Men's Section of Palace.

ACT IV – Royal Divan of the Emperor's Palace.

Produced by Special Arrangement with Walter H. Baker Company.

Percy MacKaye has the following to say about his play "A Thousand Years Ago":

"The present play is an original comedy, of which certain elements in the plot have been suggested by the old Persian tale which is the theme of the 18th century Italian comedy 'Turandotte,' by Carlo Gozzi, translated into German by Friedrich Schiller."

SYNOPSIS

Act I: Here, of a morning outside a city gate of Pekin, are given the elements of the story that is to unfold. The four vagabond players from Italy, led by Capocomico, sense a mystery as they gaze at the heads on the city gateway. Calaf, whose father Timur has been killed by Altoum, and Barak his servitor, appear disguised as beggars. Altoum, the Emperor, tells Capocomico that he is desperate because of his daughter, Turandot. She forced from her father a promise that for a year and a day all suitors for her hand in marriage must first guess three riddles. "To him who answers right she shall be wed. But all who answer wrong shall straightway die and their dissevered heads be spiked in scorn high on the city's gate." Thus far none have answered right. Capocomico promises to solve the mystery of Turandot's strange behavior – on the condition that for one day he is to be emperor. Altoum consents. Turandot sees in the young beggar who swoons the one to whom she had tossed a rose one night a year ago.

Act II, Scene 1: Turandot confesses to Zelima her love for the beggar. Another day and she will be free. Capocomico tells her that he will find her beggar, that she will have joy in a perfect marriage of romance. He reminds her, however, that she has one final suitor. Calaf has come in the guise of Keedur, Khan of Beloochistan.

Scene 2: Barak is brought in by the four vagabonds. Calaf appears as Keedur. He guesses Turandot's three riddles, but refuses to claim the reward. Instead, he says that if she guesses who he really is, he will release all claim.

Act III: Capocomico gives Turandot a sleeping charm that will enable her to learn who Keedur is. She finds that he is Calaf, son of Timur; while strangely moved, she still does not realize that he is her beggar.

Act IV: Calaf charges that he has been betrayed. He believes also that Turandot loves another, "the noblest in all the world." Barak is brought in. Turandot recognizes him as her beggar's gaffer. Calaf, then, must be her noblest in all the world.

PRODUCTION

General Chairman, J. M. FULLER

Costume Design and Execution.....Dorothy Lahr
Dance Choreography and Direction.....Margaret Tapping
Incidental Music and Direction.....Egil Smedvig
Stage Design.....Norbert J. Schaal

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Auditor.....Ellen Walsh
Make-up.....Eulalie Little
Motion Picture.....Bruce Matson
Motion Picture Script.....Harriet Walker
Photographer.....Lawrence McKinnis
Prompter.....Meriel Atkinson
Properties.....Marion Roemer
Publicity.....Barbara Chandler
Theater Reconstruction.....Arthur Winder
Tickets.....Helen Helland
Ushering.....Helen Ball

FORMER PRODUCTIONS IN THE FOREST THEATER

*1923	*Robin of Sherwood,* based on poem by Alfred Noyes
*1924	*The Shepherd in the Distance,* pantomime, Holland Hudson
*1925	*The Little Clay Cart,* ancient Hindu drama
1926	*Reinald and the Red Wolf,* Kenneth Sawyer Goodman and Thomas Wood Stevens
1927	*Alice in Wonderland,* Eva LeGallienne
1928	*Robin of Sherwood,* T. J. Crawford
1929	*Makebelieve,* A. A. Milne
1930	*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs,* Jessie Braham White
1931	*Alice Adventuring in Wonderland,* Lois Beil Sandall
1932	*Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves,* Harriet King Walker
1933	*The Reluctant Dragon,* Emma Gelders Sterne
1934	*The Rose and the Ring,* from Thackeray, Phyllis Jansen Young
1935	*Toad of Toad Hall,* A. A. Milne
1936	*Under Richard's Banner,* Harriet King Walker
1937	*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs,* Jessie Braham White
1938	*The Sleeping Beauty of Loreland,* Frances Homer
1939	*Rip Van Winkle and the Silver Flagon,* Tom Herbert
1940	*Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves,* Harrriet King Walker
1941	*A Midsummer Night's Dream,* William Shakespeare
1942	*The Princess and Mr. Parker,* Gwendolen Seiler
1947	*The Sleeping Beauty of Loreland,* Frances Homer

*Not produced in the present Forest Theater.

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The Mountaineer Players have staged numerous productions during fall and winter months in Seattle.