

Epreuve corrigée de *Satan the Waster* (1920) - page 7

Auteurs : Lee, Vernon (Violet Paget)

Information générales

LangueAnglais

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Lee, Vernon (Violet Paget), Epreuve corrigée de *Satan the Waster* (1920) - page 7, 1920. Holographical-Lee, Sophie Geoffroy, Université de La Réunion ; projet EMAN (Thalim, ENS-CNRS-Sorbonne nouvelle). Consulté le 14/02/2026 sur la plate-forme EMAN : <https://eman-archives.org/HoL/items/show/1748>

Copier

Texte & Analyse

AnalyseTapyruscrit

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Présentation

Date1920

GenreEpreuve corrigée

Mentions légales

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Editeur de la ficheHolographical-Lee, Sophie Geoffroy, Université de La Réunion ;
projet EMAN (Thalim, ENS-CNRS-Sorbonne nouvelle)

Notice créée par [Sophie Geoffroy](#) Notice créée le 23/04/2019 Dernière modification
le 20/09/2023

MUSE:
(cont.)

Africa and the Far East. In those picturesque Balkans also there have been some first-rate impromptus. But all that has been on a small scale. And now I am happy to hear that he is thinking of - - -

SATAN:

(Who has been leaning against one of the doorposts of the theatre, of which his figure has seemed a vague and terrible architectural supporter, suddenly drops the cloak which has made him invisible to the Muse, and appears in all his black archangelic magnificence by her side, interrupting her remarks.) Yes, dear Muse of History, your humble servant has been thinking of opening once more the entire European stage. (They shake hands). Not merely thinking, either. The Politicians and Armament shareholders have long since got all our stage property in readiness, and the scene-shifters of the Press are waiting for the signal. Welcome, dear lady; I was on the point of sending you my invitation. And, it may interest you to be present at my last consultation with our incomparable Ballet Master, Death. Hullo, Ballet Master Death, you and the Muse of History need no introduction. Well, I hope you feel in the vein for a real great performance.

DEATH:

And high time, too. For what with doctors discovering my favourite bacilli and economists and trade Unionists tampering with the very sources of slow starvation, my circumstances have been alarmingly reduced of late years. Why, I have had to lay my hand on volcanoes and earthquakes to get a decent living. Well, well, my dear Lord Satan, the time for grumbling is over.. I am at your service.

SATAN:

(Looking at his watch) Excellent. Clio will kindly summon the audience. We what a sprinkling of Neutral Nations, some of whom can gradually be drawn into the performance; and of course those Virtues who, for obvious reasons cannot take part in it. But the chief spectators will naturally be the Ages - To - Come, and a confounded fastidious lot they are, having so far no material existence to distract their thoughts. Is your Corps de Ballet dressed and ready?

DEATH:

The Nations have been in training for this Ballet for some years past; and the international armament milliners have just provided the very latest in destructive fashions; some truly elegant, I venture to say. I answer for the dancers. Can I now assist you in seeing to the music?