



Bühnenbild für „Elisabeth“

Stage setting for "Elizabeth"

B Ü R M A N N

SPANISH STAGE SETTINGS

Siegfried Bürmann is the reformer of Spanish stage settings. This artist has worked his way up to this dominating position after a tenacious struggle. He showed the Spanish public what he could do for the first time in 1919. Ten years later he was the artistic director of the official "Teatro Español" in Madrid. In the interval he made a three years' tour with State help through North, Central, and South America, which gave him an opportunity of continuing his successes in that part of the world. In 1925 he was awarded the Grand Prix and the gold medal at the international Exposition des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. His finest achievement was the mounting of an open-air performance of the drama "El Alcalde de Zalamea" by Calderon in the bull-fight arena in Madrid before 40,000 spectators. In 1935 Bürmann was commissioned by the Spanish Government to undertake the pictorial part of the Lope de Vega tercentenary celebrations, when the artist had an opportunity of mounting more than twenty pieces of this classical poet. The almost terrifying contrast between the sun-drenched landscapes with their joyous riot of colour and the interiors with their dusky hangings is worked out with the most delicate instinct for the stage. Such a talented artist will also be able to utilize the rich experience, such as few others have at their command, in his own country, where open-air and theatrical performances on the largest scale are among the requirements of the day. Bürmann was born in Northeim (Hanover) in 1890 and studied at the Düsseldorf Academy.

Translated by W. L. Campbell