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The purpose of the Australian Drama Company is to form a continuing theatrical company similar in its aims to the Old Vic and to the Comédie Francaise, with its artists drawn principally from Australia, though from time to time it is hoped to welcome guest artists from overseas. Its repertoire will be mainly of a classical nature, but it is hoped to include Australian plays of proved worth as well as new European plays.

This Company was first launched at the Elizabethan Theatre with Medea, in which Judith Anderson played the leading part, and this play, after its phenomenally successful season in Sydney, was toured successfully to all capital cities of the Commonwealth.

The majority of the players from the Medea Company are in the current two productions of Twelfth Night and The Rivals, and we welcome some new faces also who are joining the Company to help consolidate its position in Australian dramatic life. Among these is Ray Lawler, who is playing Feste in Twelfth Night and is also the author of Summer of the Seventeenth Doll.

This play made a considerable impression when it was produced here earlier this year, and, in answer to constant requests, we are happy to revive it with the same cast, some of whom are now joining the Australian Drama Company in this second season.

At the conclusion of the Sydney season, the three plays, Twelfth Night, The Rivals and Summer of the Seventeenth Doll, will leave Sydney on a Commonwealth tour. The Elizabethan Theatre is most happy to be associated with the birth of this important venture.

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Under this title, it is planned to bring Elizabethan Theatre patrons news, views and comments on and about theatre throughout the world.

ACCLAIM FOR O'NEILL IN SWEDEN

The "New York Times" Stockholm (Sweden) correspondent, George Williamson, recently cabled this story back to New York:

"The world premiere of Eugene O'Neill's Long Day's Journey Into Night here in February is still resounding in the Swedish Press.

"Local critics, who are usually hard to please, have unanimously acclaimed the play. They call O'Neill the world's last dramatist of the stature of Aeschylus and Shakespeare.

"Because of the autobiographical nature of the play, the critics say it will give literary historians new insight into O'Neill's previous works. The characters closely parallel the family of James O'Neill, the playwright's father.

Single Room, 1912 Setting

"The 4½-hour tragedy is a conflict between human disintegration and the cohesive effect of family love. It is a play of sympathy and forgiveness, despite all the petty shortcomings and pathetic decay of the four main characters. There is no protagonist. The action through four acts takes place in a single room on the day in 1912 that Eugene O'Neill—in this case Edmund Tyrone—discovered he had tuberculosis and was committed to a sanitorium. There is no plot, but the dialogue reveals characters through a series of accusations, self-blame and self-justification. In the end, no one is to blame.

Unbearable Hopelessness

"The mother is a morphine addict, who blames her condition on the birth of her younger son, Edmund. The parsimonious drunkard father is blamed for having forced his older son into the theatre, where he failed. The older son is accused of leading the younger astray. The last hope of the sick, soul-searching Edmund, the love and comradeship of his older brother, is crushed in the last act by the revelation of the elder's hate and jealousy. All hopes of the three men seem crushed by the mother's final flight into a morphine dream.

Continued Page 7



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"It is the human compassion of the drama that raises it from something autobiographical into something universal. It raises it from the ingrown pessimism of much contemporary drama into an unfolding of love and understanding.

"The final scene of stark, almost unbearable hopelessness dissolves all conflicting emotions of hate in a catharsis of compassion.

"The world premiere itself is in many ways an act of gratitude. On his deathbed, O'Neill asked that his unpublished drama be performed first at Stockholm's Royal Dramatic Theatre, which has staged more of his plays than any other theatre in the world,

Unpublished Character Comedy

"When Mr. Gierow, producer of the play, was in the United States last year working out details of the rights with Mrs. O'Neill, he also secured rights to another unpublished O'Neill drama, Hughie, a one act character comedy. The world premiere will probably be in Stockholm next fall. Hughie was finished in 1940, about the same time as Long Day's Journey Into Night. It has two characters, but is mostly a monologue set in the entrance hall of a second-class New York hotel."





From London comes news of a new British musical, "Summer Song", presented by George and Alfred Black at the Princes Theatre. The stars are David Hughes and Sally Ann Howes. The music is by Anton Dvorak, arranged by Bernard Grun.

"Variety's" London critic cabled this report to New York: "At last a British musical that seems to have taken some note of Broadway standards. Embellished from an incient in Dvorak's life, the show uses the successful formula of Song of Norway and Kismet by taking the music of a great composer and adding lyrics to suit the needs of the story. The result is a score of unrivalled quality, abounding in impressive ballads with a flow of typically gay and lively show tunes.

"The co-starring of David Hughes (he appeared at the Tivoli Theatre last year) and Sally Ann Howes in the romantic leads gives the show remarkable marquee stature, and both acquit themselves admirably. Miss Howes, whose ability as an actress has developed from comparative immaturity to high professionalism in a few years, is an expert hand at dealing with the ballads. Hughes, with an impressive list of disclicks (record successes) to his credit, emerges as an appealing performer. His acting is surprisingly natural, and his vocalistics are consistently in the top grade.

"Bernard Grun has adapted Dvorak's music to suit the needs of the show in a way which will please audiences and not offend purists."

Hy Kraft and Eric Maschwitz wrote the book and Maschwitz also wrote the lyrics.



Lloyd Berrell



He was born in New Zealand and came to Australia at the age of eleven, when he entered radio. Except for his War Service, he has been a top-line radio actor for the past sixteen years. He won the Macquarie Award in 1953 for his part in "Home is the Hero," being the best actor of the year.

His stage performances include "The Happy Time," "Point of Departure" and "Anna Christie" at the Phillip Street Theatre. His most recent film successes are "The King of the Coral Sea," as Yusep, with Chips Rafferty and Mandoza in "Long John Silver", with Robert Newton.

. . . . June Jago

This talented actress has already a wealth of stage experience behind her. After two Victorian country tours with "Springtime for Henry" and "Charley's Aunt's she played the juvenile lead in the J. C. Williamson production of "Fly Away Peter" with J. H. Roberts, in both Melbourne and Sydney. For Garnet H. Carroll in Melbourne she appeared as the ugly sister in "The Glass Slipper", the German lodger in "Young Wives' Tale", and the maid in "See How They Run". She under-studied Diana Barrymore in "Light Up the Sky", and then in Melbourne and Sydney played the pickpocket daughter in "White Sheep of the Family." She joined the Union Repertory Company this year and has played through the present season.



They Said...

An actor is a guy who, if you ain't talking about him, he ain't listening.

—Marlon Brando.

I am a producer of gooseflesh.—Alfred Hitchcock.

Do I miss some of the conveniences of the American way of life? No, with the exception of certain items, such as being able to buy balanced-diet cat food and the high-speed diaper cleaning service.—Charles Chaplin.

There are far too many men in politics and not enough elsewhere.

—Hermione Gingold.

WE QUOTE from the present Country Tour of "The Doll."

"The company as a whole is getting along quite well. No arguments or rows to my knowledge. Everybody is being very tolerant, and if not, are keeping it to themselves."

-"Comments" section stage manager's nightly report.

"Audience shocked a little by language. Barney hit head on chair in fight scene and suffered from concussion. Third act was played with doctor, brandy and cold towels in the wings. Doctor checked him after final curtain and said it was mainly emotional."

-"Comments" section stage manager's nightly report.

Membership

If you wish to join those who are already supporting the Trust venture throughout the Commonwealth, you may do so by paying an initial subscription of £10. Subsequent annual subscriptions are £5 and are due on the 1st July, and are payable before the 31st December. Membership entitles you to priority booking for two seats at any given performance. Information regarding the work of the Trust and coming productions will be regularly sent out to members.

You may also assist the work of the Trust by giving a donation, and the Trust welcomes all donations, whether they be large or small.

Many of the Theatre seats have been given by friends of the Trust, both in Australia and overseas. A donation of £10 will provide one seat, and a plaque bearing the name of the donor will be fixed to the arm of the chair.

Playwright, actor and producer, was born in the Melbourne industrial suburb of Footscray in 1921 and was educated at a State school. At 13 he went to work as a factory hand in an engineering foundry. During the 11 years he spent at the factory he learnt much about human nature and the earthy side of everyday life.

His interest in the theatre found on outlet at the age of 17 in the amaleur theatre, leading eventually to playwriting. His first three-act play, "Hal's Belles," was produced at the Melbourne Repertory Theatre with Frank Thring in the leading role. Since then he has written ten full-length works for the theatre, including "Cradle of Thunder," which won the National Theatre Movement's Commonwealth Jubilee Play Competition in 1952, and two pantomimes based on the "Ginger Meags" comic strips.

He is as interested in acting and producing as he is in writing. He joined the Union Theatre Repertory Company in 1954 and succeeded to the post of Director of Productions.



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Born in Queensland Madge Ryan made her entry to the professional stage with a tour of her native State with John Nugent Hayward. Her versatile acting has brought her leading roles in stage, radio and films. Sydney theatry patrons will recall her in "Cocktail Party" "Captain Carvallo", "Lavinia", "Smilja", and more recently in revue at the Phillip Street Theatre. She has just completed a series of T.V. film shorts and also a role in the British film production of "Smiley", starring Sir Ralph Richardson. Over the air she has played many leads in Caltex and Lux Radio plays.

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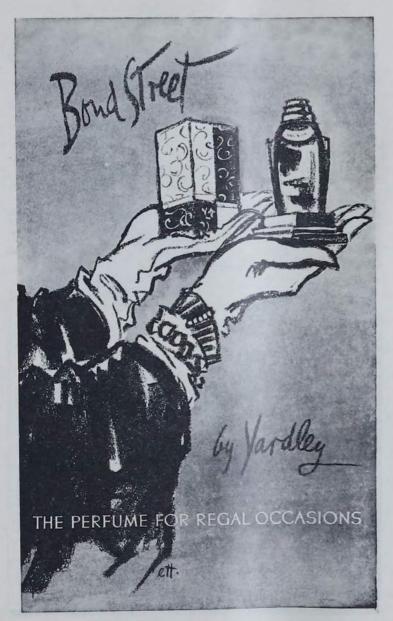
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SYNAGOGUES OF SATAN



Harry Rickards terrified our grandparents as "The Mad Butcher" in early Australian Theatre

One hundred years ago a Tasmanian clergyman denounced the Theatre as "the synagogue of Satan."

"What is Theatre?" he thundered. "Crime is represented, in all its details, for amusement, gratification, and gain to the actors. . . . Strange that innocent minds should love to imitate guilty actions — that moral men should delight to personify the wicked — that tender virgins should love to see the representation of foul murder — that meek matrons should go to witness the enactment of jealous and deadly revenge!"

Apart from the reverend gentleman's moral ranting, there was some truth in what he said: Many early Australian theatres must have seemed like the "regions of the cursed." Inadequate ventilation and lack of fumigation made them hot, oppressive and smelly.

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Theatre folk often renew acquaintances with friends they have made in a particular theatre by writing a general letter which is pinned on the Call Board. Under this title parts of these letters will be reproduced.

.... I have a theory that a person's eventual acceptance of a city new to them is largely conditioned by the most vivid things that happen to them during that initial period when their sensibilities are still wide open to strange impressions. Not a particularly deep and profound thought, admittedly, and I mention it only because my trip to Sydney for the January season of "Summer of the Seventeenth Doll" was the first time I had visited here, and I came with such a varied collection of apprehensions as to how the play would be received. I left five weeks later with these totally removed, and a regard for this city and its people that will never quite fade, no matter what may happen to me here on future occasions. This feeling is based, not so much on the play's reception, but on the eager wish for its success that seemed to be common among Press and public alike, even before the show opened. I could go on about this for some time, but I think I have said enough to indicate that I am very happy to be back for the return season.

Not that the intervening period since leaving Sydney in January has been dull. For one thing, I have been able to bask in the warm sunshine of a Melbourne summer, while keeping myself more than busy with the last two productions of the Union Theatre Repertory Company's third season. This busy period seems to be carrying on in Sydney (without the sunshine, unfortunately), and I'm battling at the moment to reconcile the lyric beauty of "Twelfth Night", in which I am to appear as Feste, with the raucous Australianism of "The Doll". Quite a job!

Latest news on the latter play, incidentally, seems to indicate a season in Brisbane for me with the current touring company towards the end of May—as the canecutters go north, so shall I. . . . Hope it's a good omen!

Cheerio for now.

Sincerely,

Ray Lawler

Elizabethan THEATRE NEWTOWN

For a Season commencing March 27, 1956
THE AUSTRALIAN ELIZABETHAN THEATRE TRUST

presents
THE AUSTRALIAN ERAMA COMPANY



RAY LAWLER

THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

Bubba Ryan	FENELLA MAGUIRE
Pearl Cunningham	MADGE RYAN
Olive Leech	JUNE JAGO
Barney Ibbot	RAY LAWLER
Emma Leech	ETHEL GABRIEL
Roo Webber	LLOYD BERRELL
Johnnie Dowd	

Produced by JOHN SUMNER

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The entire action of the play takes place in a doublestoried terrace cottage in Carlton, Victoria.

Act One:

Scene 1—A Sunday in early December, 1952. Late afternoon. Scene 2—Next morning.

Act Two:

Scene I—New Year's Eve. Scene 2—The following Friday evening.

Act Three:

Next morning

There will be two Intervals of 12 Minutes.

Scenery Designed and Painted by ANNE FRASER.
Built by the Workshops of The Union Theatre, Melbourne,
and The Elizabethan Theatre, Newtown.

CREDITS.

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Members of the ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE are in attendance at this theatre. on a voluntary basis.

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General Manager Stage Director Stage Manager Wardrobe Mistress Publicity

EXECUTIVE FOR AUSTRALIAN DRAMA CO. ELSIE BEYER ROBIN LOVEJOY MALCOLM ROBERTSON JOAN HALCOMBE RON PATTEN PUBLICITY

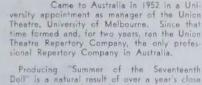
The Management reserves the right to make any alteration in the cast which may be rendered necessary by illness or any other unavoidable cause.

The Management reserves the right of refusing admission to the Theatre.

Taking photographs during the performance of this production is prohibited.

Smoking is not permitted in the Auditorium.

This programme was designed for the ELIZABETHAN THEATRE by RON PATTEN PUBLICITY, 793 George Street, Sydney, phone BA 2098, to whom all advertising enquiries should be made, and printed by PEERLESS PRESS PTY, LTD., 558a George Street, Sydney.



Producing "Summer of the Seventeenth Doll" is a natural result of over a year's close work with the playwright, Ray Lawler, when the latter was an actor with the Company.

His theatre experience in England started in Repertory in Dundee, Scotland, and finished as stage director and manager for the firm of H. M. Tennant Limited, when he participated in various productions, including "A Street Car Named Desire" and Antony Quayle's production of Rattigan's "Who is

John Sumner came to the Trust in June of last year as General Manager of the Elizabethan Theatre and returned to Melbourne in November to work on the first production of "Summer of the Seventeenth Doll."

He subsequently produced first Sydney season of "The Doll" and also, with a new cast, the touring production for the Trust and the Arts Council. This current production reunites him with his original cast.



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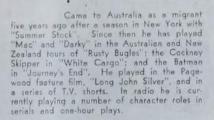
Ethel Gabriel

is well known to Australian radio listeners for her many performances in popular plays and serials.

She appeared for two years with J. C. Williamson's as Aunt Abbey in "Assenic and Old Lace"—Mrs. Jones in "Robert's Wife" and Louisa in "Ladie: in Retirement."

Her most recent stage performance was in the role of Granny in Ruth Park's "Horp in"

John Llewellyn







Fenella Maguire

Spent the early years of her life in India and Malaya. She originally intended to become a doctor, but abandoned medical studies in favour of the theatre. Fenella spent a year at Melbourne's Arrow Theatre, during which time she toured Victoria in leading roles of "Our Town" and "Beauty and the Beast." Other plays included "Rope", "The Green Bay Tree", "French Without Tears", and "Present Laughter".

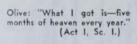
A sixteen months' Australian tour for J. C. Williamsons as the juvenile lead in "Dear Charles" followed. She returned to Melbourne in August for continuous work with the Union Theatre Repertory Company, Plays included G. B. Shaw's "You Never Can Tell", "The Barretts of Wimpole Street", and an intimate

revue, "Return Fare".



Olive: "Gawd, this'll be happy. You know what we're in for, don't you? She'll start off with 'Goldmine in the Sky' and finish up with 'Old Black Joe'."

(Act II, Sc. 1.)





Barney: "... whichever one of them I married, I thought'd be a rotten insult to the other. And it would have been. Both of them said so." (Act I, Sc. II.)





Acknowledgements

The Elizabethan Theatre management wish gratefully to acknowledge the unstinting efforts of Firms, Companies and Patrons who have helped to make the opening of this Theatre possible. As a mark of appreciation, the following names are listed, complete to hand at time of this programme going to press.

The Myer Emporium, Melbourne, for a chandelier.

Messrs. Anthony Hordern & Sons Limited for furnishing a dressing-room.

Messrs. Grace Brothers for furnishing a dressing-room.

Messrs. Beale & Company Limited for a baby grand piano.

Messrs. Beard Watson & Company Limited for furnishing a dressing-room.

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Seat Donors

Many patrons have assisted the Elizabethan Theatre in re-seating the stalls of the theatre by donating the cost of a seat or seats. Their names will be affixed to these chairs to stand as a memento of their generosity.

The cost of each stall chair is £10, with the donation being deductible from taxation. Should you be desirous of joining the list of donors, please leave your name and address at the Manager's Office.

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