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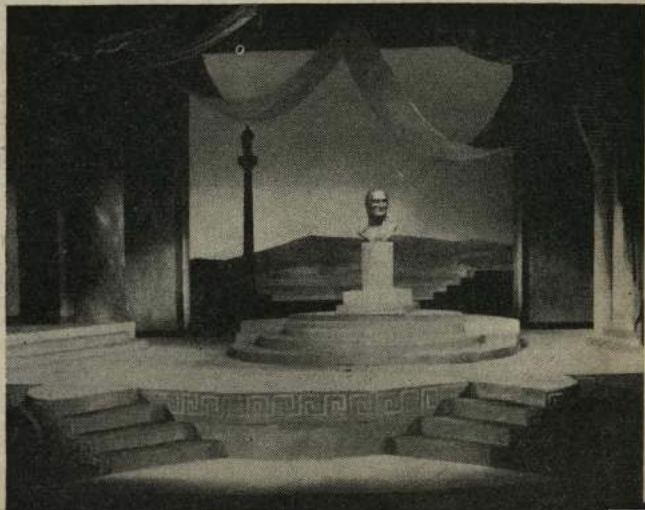
September, 1959



BOLSHOI BALLETT.

TRUST NEWS

AUSTRALIAN ELIZABETHAN THEATRE TRUST



SETTING FOR "JULIUS CAESAR".

THE AUSTRALIAN ELIZABETHAN THEATRE TRUST

Our feature for this issue: THE TRUST PLAYERS

The Trust's newest company, The Trust Players, recently completed its first season at the Elizabethan Theatre, Newtown — a season which opened at the beginning of March and continued until the end of July. The five plays were "Slaughter of St. Teresa's Day", by Peter Kenna, "Man and Superman", by George Bernard Shaw, "Fire on the Wind", by Anthony Coburn (which was originally produced under the title of "The Bastard Country"), "Long Day's Journey Into Night", by Eugene O'Neill, and Shakespeare's immortal play, "Julius Caesar". (Students from the National Institute of Dramatic Art—the institute was our feature for the last issue of Trust News—made their first professional stage appearance playing the crowd in "Julius Caesar".)

And now, the Trust Players are undertaking their first Commonwealth tour. This company is the next step in the Trust's policy in regard to drama, and follows, in development, its drama company which toured in 1955, 1956 and 1957.

The formation of a group of actors working closely together in the presentation of a programme of varied plays has, in the past, produced amazingly fine performances and provided richly fertile ground for the growth of new playwrights. The Moscow Arts Theatre, the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, and the Berliner Ensemble, under Berthold Brecht, spring to mind as shining examples of stock in its very best form.

Actors working in these conditions acquire a sureness, flexibility and polish, and in time, create, as it were, for their company, a special individual quality or tradition. For the actor himself, it is a blessing to be able to tackle a series of parts rather than to play one role in a popular play for a long run. Such a company, also, is the perfect training ground, varying parts and constant change being invaluable to the young actor.

Stock work is hard and taxing, but its rewards are satisfying, and it is the real basis of theatre.

Two new plays by Australian authors were included in the Sydney programmes, and one of them is presented for the tour. This is "Fire on the Wind", an exciting and effective drama by a young Melbourne author, Anthony Coburn, who is at present overseas. The remaining plays are "Man and Superman", brilliant and audacious, and as delicious a comedy as George Bernard Shaw ever wrote, and a magnificent piece of work by the late Eugene O'Neill, "Long Day's Journey Into Night", which will surely be remembered among the great plays of this century. It is hoped that eventually, companies like The Trust Players will exist in every State (Melbourne Union Theatre is now operated by the Trust), and that tours will represent an annual feature of their activities.

Itinerary. The Trust Players will conclude their Commonwealth tour with a visit to Canberra and Brisbane in November. They have played successfully in Hobart, Burnie, Launceston, Scottsdale and Ulverstone in Tasmania, and will present "Fire on the Wind" in Bendigo, Geelong and Ballarat before opening in Adelaide with "Man and Superman", on September 21. After Adelaide they commence a West Australian country tour, which finishes at the end of October, when they open in Perth.

COUNTRY TOURS

The Young Elizabethan Players: Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania

Since April, the Young Elizabethan Players have visited more than fifty country centres in N.S.W. and Queensland, presenting Shakespeare to schools and adult audiences. The Trust arranged the tour in partnership with the Arts Council of N.S.W. After a week's break they begin again in Victoria with "Richard II" and "The Merchant of Venice", which will run from September 14 to 18. In South Australia, where they open on September 21 for three to four weeks, the tour is sponsored by The Trust in association with the Adult Education Board. This tour will include visits to Woomera Rocket Range and Kangaroo Island. They will present "Julius Caesar" and "Midsummer Night's Dream". From South Australia they travel to Tasmania, where all four plays will be performed. Here the tour is sponsored by The Trust in association with the National Theatre and Fine Arts Society.

The Tintookies: Queensland and N.S.W.

Peter Scriven's Tintookies are scoring tremendous success in their new play, "Little Fella Bindi". They have already played three months of their 26 weeks' tour and leave Queensland early in September for New South Wales, where they will travel as far West as Broken Hill in one of the longest theatrical tours to be undertaken in Australia. The Trust and Peter Scriven are associated with the Arts Council in this venture.

OVERSEAS

"The Shifting Heart"

Richard Beynon's prize-winning play, "The Shifting Heart", which will open at the Duke of York's Theatre, London, later this month, successfully opened its provincial tour in Nottingham, on August 10.

Presented by Sir Lawrence Olivier, in association with the Trust, it created as much excitement in the provincial press as "The Doll", which had its English premiere also in Nottingham, two years ago.

The cast, which includes Australians, Madge Ryan, Ken Warren, Alex Scott and David Nettheim, took 12 curtain calls.

Madge Ryan and Ken Warren will be remembered for their performances of Pearl and Roo in "Summer of the Seventeenth Doll". Madge also played the role of Leila Pratt during presentations of "The Shifting Heart" in Brisbane and Melbourne.

Australian actor, Leo McKern, produced "The Shifting Heart", and Australian designer Frank Hinder's original set was chosen again.

SYDNEY

"Summer of the Seventeenth Doll"

"The Doll", opened at the Elizabethan Theatre, Newtown, on August 26 for a fourth return season. Success continues in Sydney after a record-breaking tour throughout the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand.

OPERA

Rigoletto in Tasmania

The Trust is assisting the National Theatre and Fine Arts Society in the current presentation of Rigoletto, which will open in Hobart on September 5th. Robin Lovejoy is director.

Madame Butterfly in New Zealand

Trust Opera Producer, Stefan Haag, is at present producing "Madame Butterfly" in New Zealand. It will open in Wellington on September 16.

1960 Opera Season

Plans are going ahead for the 1960 opera season, when five operas will be presented, under the direction of Karl Rankl.

Mr. Tom Brown, who has been appointed new manager for our Opera Company, arrives to take up his duties at the end of September.

Mr. Brown is a South Australian who has had extensive theatrical experience overseas. He has recently relinquished the important position of Assistant Director of the Stratford (Ontario) Shakespeare Festival, to return to Australia.

BALLET

Bolshoi Ballet Ensemble

The Bolshoi Ballet Ensemble, which the Trust, in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture, Moscow, presented throughout Australia, left Sydney on August 23 to play a five-weeks' season in New Zealand.

During their enormously successful, but limited, season in Australia, they played to 51,300 people. They gave nine performances in Melbourne, one in Canberra, two in Brisbane and nine in Sydney.

Following in Dame Margot Fonteyn's footsteps the Ensemble graciously consented to give a special matinee for children from dancing schools, and their teachers.

From the proceeds of the Bolshoi Ballet tour in Australia, the Trust hopes to send two Australian choreographers to Moscow for the purpose of studying Russian classical ballet.

Negotiations are proceeding in this matter with the Ministry of Culture, Moscow.

Choreographers will attend the Choreographic Institute, Moscow, and the course of training will be for a period of two to three years.

FESTIVALS

Adelaide Festival

Opera: The 1960 opera season will commence in Adelaide on March 17, with the Festival opera, "Salome", starring Joan Hammond.

Drama: The Trust is staging E. S. Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral", with Robert Speight in the starring role of Thomas A'Beckett, and Robert Helpmann producing.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Yugoslav State Company... Kolo Dancers

The Yugoslav State Company which comprises 55 "Kolo" dancers, singers and musicians from Belgrade, will open at the Elizabethan Theatre, Newtown, on October 12.

D. D. O'Connor is presenting the company under the official sponsorship of the Government of Yugoslavia.

Indian Ballet

Negotiations are proceeding with the Indian National Theatre for a visit by the Indian National Ballet Company early in the New Year.