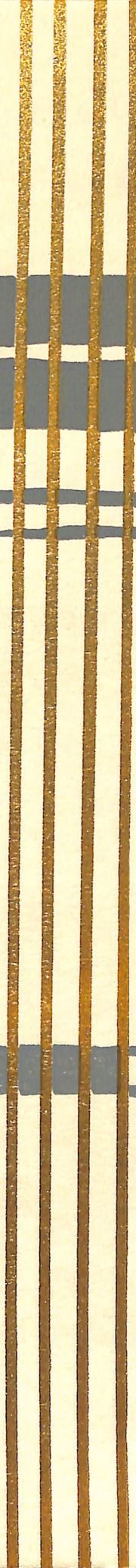


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presents

MARCHING SONG

A Play in Three Acts

by

JOHN WHITING

AT THE

MANOEL THEATRE

VALLETTA — MALTA

WEDNESDAY, 8th MAY, 1963, at 8.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, 9th MAY, at 7.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, 10th MAY, at 7.30 p.m.

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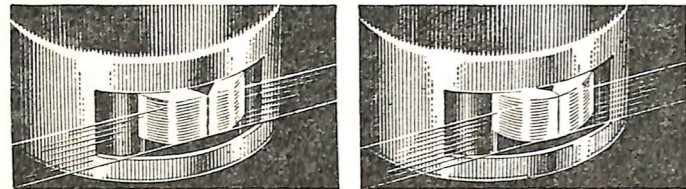
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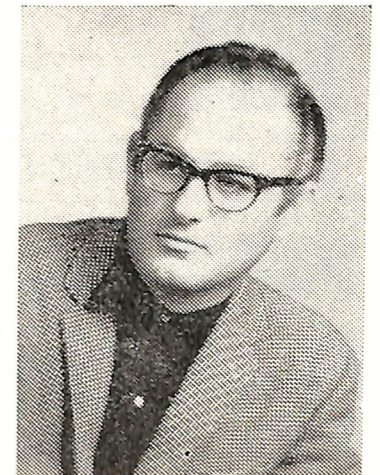
8-27, South Street,

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FRANCIS EBEJER



The producer of "Marching Song" is Francis Ebejer, well known as a novelist, playwright, poet and essayist.

Born in August 1925, Francis Ebejer has been writing all his life in both English and Maltese. He has had a large number of Maltese radio-plays broadcast over Rediffusion, gaining various prizes in radio competitions.

His latest success in Maltese has been his three Act Play "Vakanzi tas-Sajf" ("Summer Holidays") which earned for him First Prize in a National Competition organised by the Manoel Theatre Management Committee. Performed in December 1962 it aroused a great deal of interest and controversy and it has clearly broken new ground in Maltese Drama, aligning it with modern trends prevalent in international theatre today.

He has also been successful with his English works. Two of his English novels, the first one called "A Wreath for the Innocents" and the second "Evil of the King Cockroach", were published by MacGibbon and Kee, London, in 1958 and 1960 respectively.

On a travel grant tour of the United States, he co-produced Sophocle's "Antigone" for the Theatre Arts Department of the University of Salt Lake City, Utah. His partner was Professor Byron MacGrath, with twenty-five years experience on Broadway.

At the Malta Amateur Cine Circle Film Festival of 1959, Ebejer was selected Best Actor of the Year.

This is his first production for the Malta Amateur Dramatic Club.

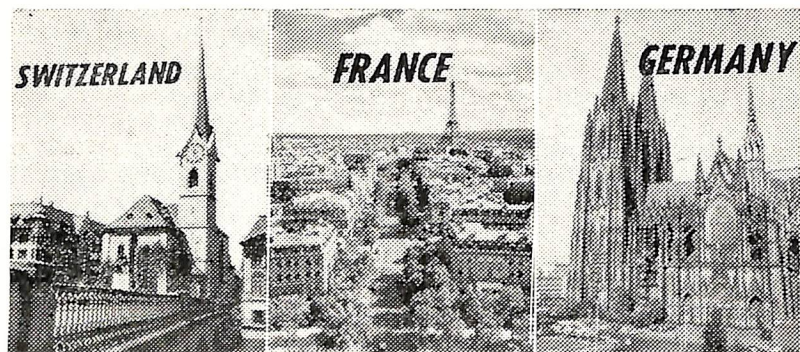
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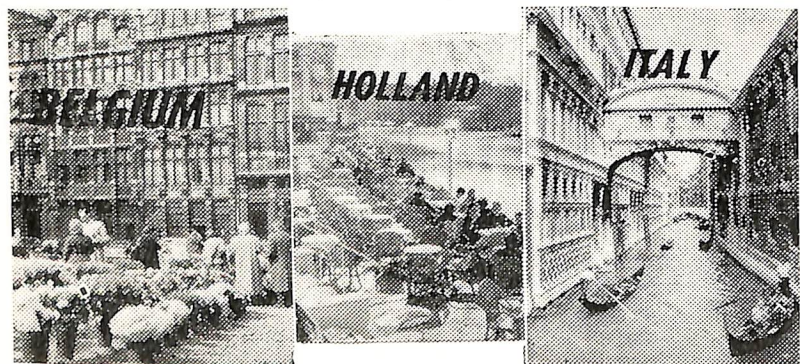
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ABOUT THE PLAY

"Well, honour is the subject of my story..... What is honour? A word. What is that word, honour? Air. A trim reckoning! Who hath it? He that died o' Wednesday."

The theme of this play is as old as man himself. There comes a time in a man's life when he is faced with two alternatives either of which could cut right across his history as an individual.

The action takes place in a capital city somewhere in Europe. The time — seven years after the end of the War. To the city and the house of his mistress, Catherine de Troyes, returns General Rupert Forster, a brilliant soldier who, because of a grievous and horrific crime he was forced to commit prior to an important battle, had been imprisoned for seven years. Now he is back to face trial. But Cadmus, the country's leader, has another idea. The nation is recuperating from a savage war. A trial of one of its erstwhile heroes would cantaminate the whole atmosphere. So Cadmus suggests a 'clean way' out. A tiny capsule inside a jewelled box is all that is needed!

Within the external plot, another, internal and just as pressing, goes on within the minds and hearts of the characters. The General's love for his mistress is now dead. This is a great blow to Catherine but slowly, bravely, she rises above it and suddenly her main concern becomes that Rupert should live.

A friend of hers, Harry Lancaster, an American movie-maker, sees in the General's dilemma a reflection of his own failure in life. Obsessed as he is with his own troubles, he has enough humanity left in him to realize Catherine's tragedy. For this reason he looks upon the General with contempt, he sees in him all that is destructive and negative in life.

Dido Morgen, the girl of the people he picked up and brought to the house appears to be the only person with a realistic hold on life. Her influence on the General and the other members of the household begins to be felt — for better or worse?

Over all broods the dark massive figure of Cadmus manipulating people for his own ends — that is, the good, as he sees it, of his country.

* * *

In a letter to the Producer, the author, John Whiting has expressed his delight that the play is going to be performed in Malta, the first time ever, and is anxious to learn how it fares.

MARCHING SONG

Cast (in Order of Their Appearance)

HARRY LANCASTER *Ben Sandham*
DIDO MORGEN *Christine Adams*
MATTHEW SANGOSSE *John Shackell*
PROFESSOR ANSELM *Guy Pleasant*
CATHERINE DE TROYES *Jillian Binns*
RUPERT FORSTER *Peter Farr*
JOHN CADMUS *Ronald Baldwin*
BRUNO HURST *Brian Finch*
A MAN (who does not speak) *Edward Haylock*

The Play Directed and Produced

by

FRANCIS EBEJER

Setting Designed

by

VICTOR SOLER

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The action of the Play passes in a room of Catherine de Troyes' house set on the heights above a capital city in Europe.

ACT I

Late evening on a spring day.

ACT II

The following night.

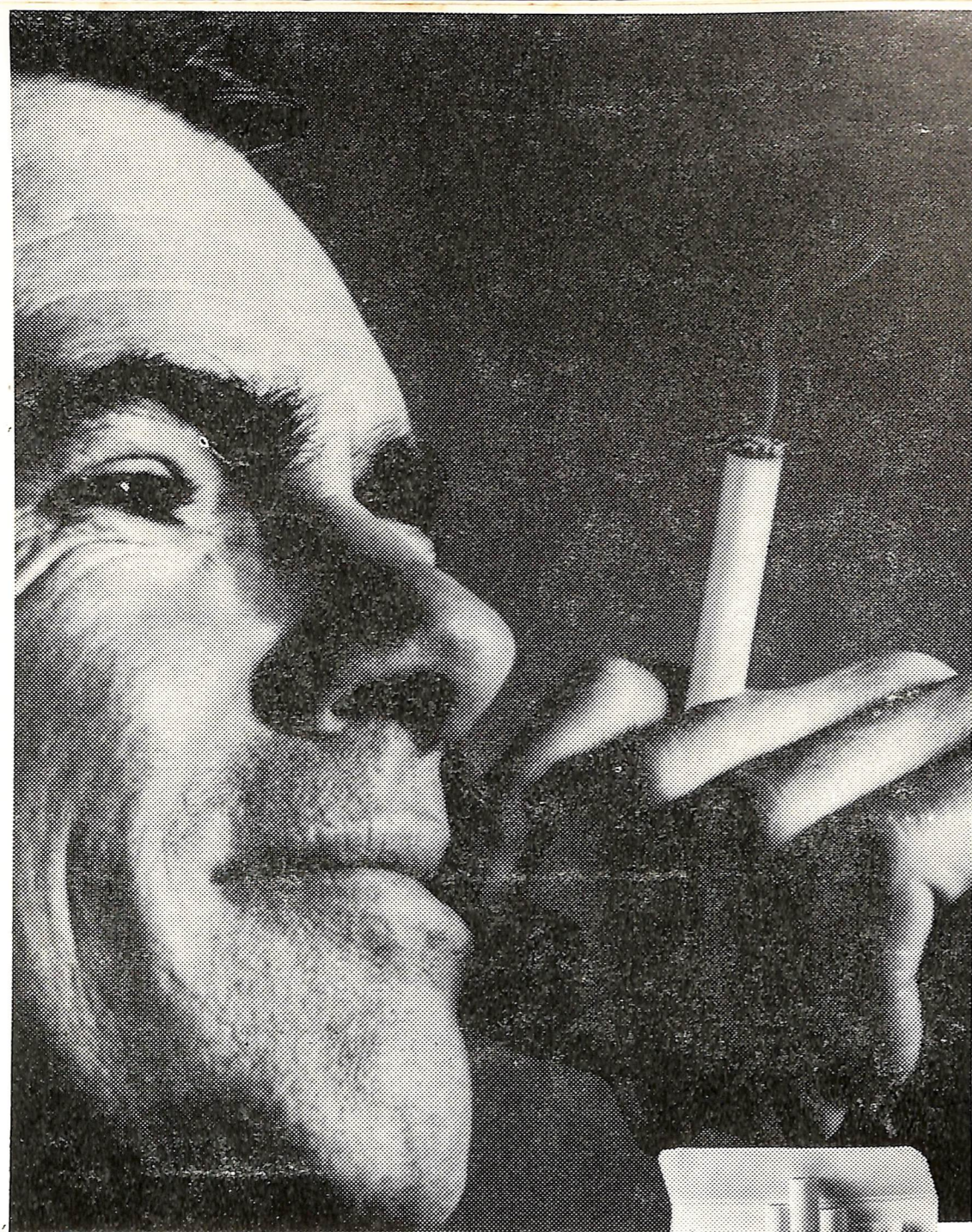
ACT III

Later the same night.

There will be two INTERVALS of fifteen minutes each.

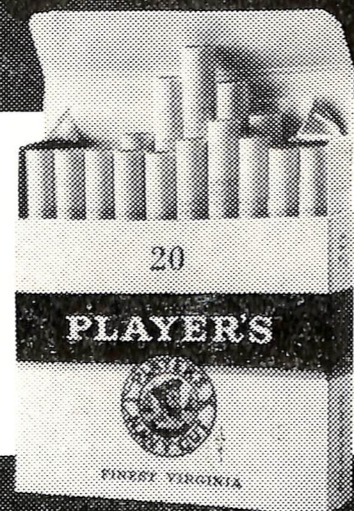
Stage Manager VICTOR SOLER
Assistant Stage Manager ROBERT SMITH
Continuity JANE FRANKLIN
Make-up BETTY SANDHAM
Wigs by L. and H. NATHAN, LONDON
Catherine's Costumes by JESSIE VELLA
Bruno's Uniform by CAMILLERI
Cine Unit lent by MALTA AMATEUR CINE CIRCLE
Scenery built by SALVATORE TESTA
Scenery painted by VICTOR SOLER and
ROBERT SMITH
Box Office for M.A.D.C. EDWARD HAYLOCK
Box Office for Manoel Theatre MARGARET DEGIORGIO
Head Electrician CHARLES TABONE
Assistant Electrician } Manoel
Theatre
Staff JOHN LAUS
Head Carpenter } JOSEPH BORG

Curtain Music is by STRAVINSKY.



When you've time to think of the pleasure a cigarette gives you, that's when you realise that of all cigarettes only Player's please so much.

Only PLAYER'S please so much



MARCHING SONG

"There is quality in this haunting and symbolic play."

from the Theatre World Annual.

In a letter to the Honorary Secretary, Sir Alec Guinness writes:—

"A very distinguished play, which never had its deserved success in London. Perhaps it will have it now".

This distinguished play was produced at the St. Martin's Theatre by Tennent Ltd on April 8th, 1954.

M.A.D.C. SEASON 1962/63

At the Manoel Theatre:—

October — "The Amorous Prawn" by Anthony Kimmins. Produced by Joseph de Piro.

December — "Breath of Spring" by Peter Coke. Produced by Kathleen Warren.

February — "Winter Journey" by Clifford Odets. Produced by Edward Chittleburgh.

March — "The Importance of Being Earnest" by Oscar Wilde. Produced by Michael Day.

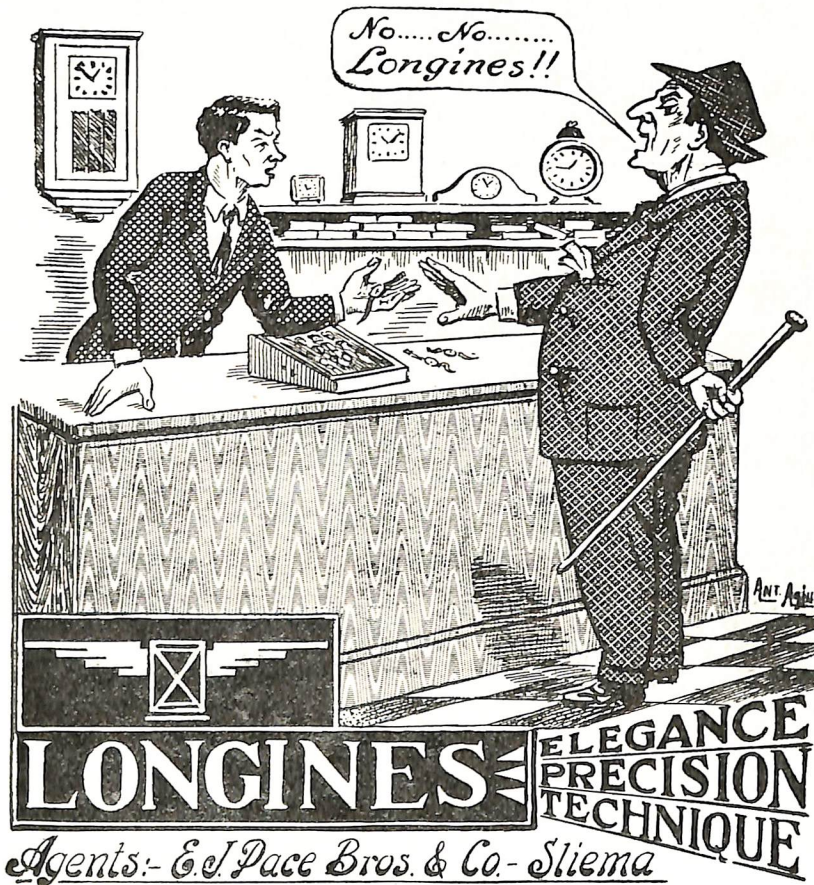
SHAKESPEARE AT SAN ANTON GARDENS

For the 21st Anniversary of Shakespearean productions, the Malta Amateur Dramatic Club will present

"THE MERCHANT OF VENICE".

The play will be directed by Kathleen Warren. Six performances will be given from Monday 1st to Saturday 6th of July, by kind permission of the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture, Power and Communications.

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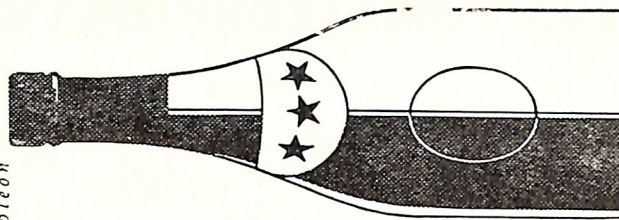
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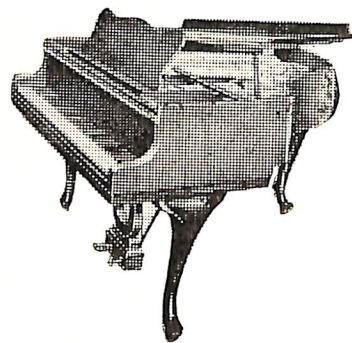


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