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## THE UNIVERSITY PLAYERS

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present

# A YARD OF SUN

by

CHRISTOPHER FRY

directed by JILLIAN BINNS

at the

## MANOEL THEATRE, VALLETTA.

21st to 24th January 1971



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Programme Note
by
CHRISTOPHER FRY



If I had to find a quick, if over-simplified, phrase for the theme of the play, I'd say: "Where do you think we're going?" - we, as separate individuals, and we, as Mankind. The culmination of the comedy shows Ana-Clara turning her mind to Cesare's desperate cry for a 'transformation'. Up to then her ambition has always been to transform herself, to explore, as far as she can go, her possibilities as a person; tochange her origins into something far less limited. Cesare thinks that not only the personality but the whole nature of man must go on changing and break through its limitations. The difference between primitive life and homo sapiens is a fact of evolution, however incredible. To suppose that the creative will has exhausted its powers is unrealistic. It is likely, (necessary) that an equal y extraordinary change of consciousness lies ahead, so long as we keep the mind free to follow what Ana-Clara calls "the indwelling music that created us." The doctor, Roberto, impatient of anything that savours of the visionary, other than political idealism, breaks into her thoughts with: "I don't know what I'm doing sitting about here. I've some calls to make." — the immediate practical business of healing. Ann-Clara before the curtain falls, has one more throw to mend the breach between Roberto and her husband. Edmondo: that the empty pa'azzo might be turned into a clinic to serve the parish. And Roberto's exit-line to Angelino could serve equally well as an appeal from us all to a long-suffering God: "We'll see what we can do. Don't lose heart."

#### COMMITTEE FOR UNIVERSITY PLAYERS

MARIO VASSALLO	• • •	 	•••	•••		 	•••	 Chairman
IVAN SANT		 				 		 Treasurer
MARIO COSTA	•••	 				 		 Secretary
CEORGE MUSCAT					2000			Member

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Directed by JILLIAN BINNS  The Set is designed by Antoine Camilleri.											
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#### SCENE

SIENA, 1946.

The Courtyard of the Palazzo del Traguardo, partly used as an Osteria; owned by the Bruno family.

#### ACT ONE

An early morning in July, two days before the Siena Palio.

#### ACT TWO

SCENE ONE

Early evening the day before the Siena Palio.

#### BLACK-OUT

SCENE TWO

Afternoon, the day of the Palio.

There will be an Interval of 15 mins. between Acts 1 & 2.

FOR THE UNIVERSITY PLAYERS

Stage Director			•••	•••		••	• • •		•••	WICTOR SOLE	R
Ass. Stage Man	nager					•••				MARLENE PSAIL	
Prompter				hie	vry	Coch	Jon.	Due	2. MA	RY COCKSON-JONE	ES
Lighting				1						VICTOR SOLE	R
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Sound	•••					Con	Th.	P. 1	ann	TONY PARN	IS n
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Scenic Director										TONY DEMICO	
Scene Painters						•••				( TONY DEMICO	LI She
										JOAN SCHRANT	rz /
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										JOHN SCHRANT	12 100
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Electrician										J. LAU	JS
Box Office						• • •				M. BUGE	JA
Stage Carpente	rs								S	. DALLI, F. MIFSU	JD
Sound										J. AZZOPARI	DI

#### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

A YARD OF SUN had its world premier at the Nottingham Playhouse, directed by Stuart Burg for the Nottingham Festival in July, 1970. It is to be presented in London later this

Christopher Fry, who has been hailed as England's leading poet-dramatist, has been absent from the Theatre for too long. His magic effect on words creates a "Language of amazement"; and his poetry has become a foreign sound to the ears of contemporary audiences in London. We've become used to the jeering, revolutionary shouting, and bitter complaints in short, sharp sentences... not without their effect. Fry is angry too, but the wit and compassion which emphasize his meaning come "far nearer to prodding our social consciences awake" than the machine-gun stutter of violence we begin to take for granted.

He manages, even between hilarious moments, perpetually to probe the guilty corners of

This play is the last of Fry's seasonal quartet, which includes THE LADY'S NOT FOR BURNING, VENUS OBSERVED, and THE DARK IS LIGHT ENOUGH. As a Summer Comedy it outshines them all.

(The Company wish to thank the manufacturers of Rothmans King Size Filter for their Poster Publicity and for their additional support, and The British Council for all the assistance they have given.)



.. there's more to be said for one bottle of Teacher's than a case of ordinary whisky'



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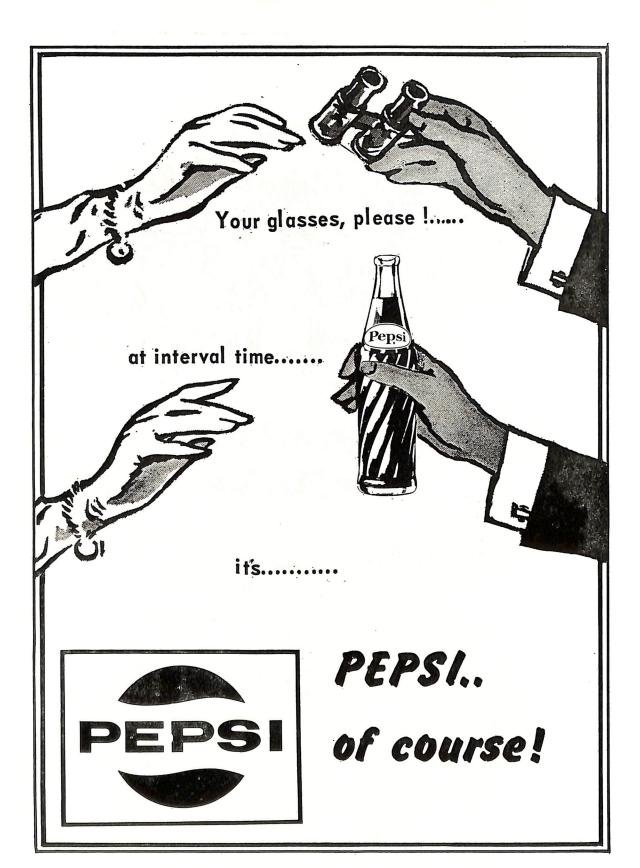
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