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MANOEL

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*In a country torn apart by revolution, loyalty is a tough bargain.*

## **A LETTER FROM THE GENERAL**

THE MANOEL THEATRE ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ARTS

with the full collaboration of the Manoel Theatre Management Committee

Presents its senior finalists

Vanessa Attard Joanna Cefai Jeanette Debono Victor Debono

Tonio Fenech Stephen Grech Moira Muscat Dorraine Ruffini

Mariella Pia Tabone

in MAURICE McLOUGHLIN'S

## **A LETTER FROM THE GENERAL**

directed by MANUEL CAUCHI

at the Manoel Theatre

on Sunday 9th April 1989 at 6.30 pm

Booking opens on Monday 3rd April

Price Lm 1.00 all seats. tel 626389

*This production is dedicated to the fond memory of  
ADRIAN RENDLE  
the first principal of MTADA, without whose initial work  
it would not have happened.*

A TERSE SIX LINER in the November 15th issue of *The Guardian* brought down the curtain on the life of ADRIAN RENDLE — that remarkable Thespian who in January 1977 breathed the very first wisp of energy into MTADA.

A professional theatre director of long standing Adrian worked with the Tavistock Repertory Company, the Tower Theatre, Canonbury, the Fortune Theatre in London, and the Theatre Royal, Straford, Atte-Bow, where in 1964, he succeeded Joan Littlewood as director of Stage Sixty. In 1974 he formed his own fringe company, the Actors Studio Theatre; and directed drama and documentaries for the B.B.C. On behalf of the British Council, who sponsored his three year stay in Malta, he worked in Zambia and Uganda. Back in the U.K. he taught at R.A.D.A., Webber Douglas and L.A.M.D.A. He also published two books dealing with the various aspects of theatre training.

Under Rendle's wings MTADA strove to develop professional awareness towards the basic attitudes to acting and production and so heighten the standards of the work. His clear and strong opinions, uttered forcibly, but always with good humour, have left an indelible mark on our theatre. Today, after twelve years and over of solid training, when approximately ninety percent of the theatrical fraternity have walked the MTADA boards there is ample reason to believe that the curtain shall never come down unkindly on the Maltese theatre.



Flashback to mid-December 1977. Adrian Rendle being presented with a gift by the first ever band of tutors and students of MTADA.

## THE COMPANY

The evening production is the students' penultimate performance with MTADA, as on May 26th they will present their "Masters" Class at the Foyer of the Manoel Theatre. These students joined MTADA in October 1986 and had tutorials in Voice, Movement, Interpretation, Fencing, Improvisation, History of the Theatre and Criticism/ Appreciation; besides practical work on Make Up and Stagemanagement. At the end of each term they took part in a presentation which included a Theatre-in-Education project.

The group spent the month of 13th July to the 15th August 1987 at the University of Perugia undergoing an intensive drama course with Roberto Ruggieri, Giampiero Frondini and Sabine van der Stern amongst other tutors. In August 1988 they worked for a month with Young Vic actress Jane Maud on a voice and elocution project.

The Pen Pictures of the Company are as follows.

(*Donkey Skin\** and *Il-Legġenda ta' Hal Lampuka\** were two projects self written, self directed and self produced by the group).



*Vanessa Attard*

Age: 21  
Occ: Primary School Teacher/Manoel Theatre Guide  
Parts: Introduction, Chorus, *Electra*, Sophocles; Male Puppet, *Commedia*, Bragalia; *Movement Display* choreographed A. Bezzina; Nurse, *Iras*, *Extracts from Shakespeare*; Lonza, *Domino*, A. Portelli; Monologue, Mrs. Sullen, *Beaux Stratagem*, G. Farquar; Various, *Donkey Skin\** and Filumen and Mary, *Il-Legġenda ta' Hal Lampuka\**



*Joanna Cefai*

Age: 21  
Occ: Kindergarten Assistant  
Parts: Raghaj, *Allat Imġarrfa*, Euripedes; Chorus, *Is-Serp*, Lombardi, *Commedia*, Bragaglia; Virgilia, Olivia, Juliet, Lady Macbeth, *Extracts from Shakespeare*; Magdalena, *Bernard Alba*, Garcia Lorca; Gogo, *Waiting for Godot*, Beckett; Monologue, *The Devil*, *Man and Superman*, G.B. Shaw; Chorus, *Id-Disklu*, S. Florian; 1919, G. Chetcuti; Sa Rosina, *Romino*, A. Portelli; Charley, *Adventures on the High Sea*, A. Mallia; Mathilda, *An Ideal Husband*, Oscar Wilde; Various, *Donkey Skin\**, and Cetta, *Il-Legġenda ta' Hal Lampuka\**.

The cast in order of appearance:

Sister Henry	<i>J. Cefai</i>	<b>Joanna Cefai</b>
Sister Lucy	<i>D. Ruffini</i>	<b>Dorraine Ruffini</b>
Sister Bridget	<i>Vattaro</i>	<b>Vanessa Attard</b>
Reverend Mother	<i>Subano</i>	<b>Jeanette De Bono</b>
Sister Magdalen	<i>Mariella Pia</i>	<b>Mariella Pia Tabone</b>
Arthur Stilton	<i>Tonio Fenech</i>	<b>Tonio Fenech</b>
Ruth Stilton	<i>Moira Muscat</i>	<b>Moira Muscat</b>
Captain Lee	<i>Victor De Bono</i>	<b>Victor De Bono</b>
Father Schiller	<i>Stephen Grech</i>	<b>Stephen Grech</b>

*Manuel Cauchi*  
Directed by **Manuel Cauchi** (tutor)

The action of the play takes place in the Common Room  
of a Mission Station  
in an eastern country  
in 1950

**Act 1** — Afternoon and Evening  
**Act 2** — The next day; morning and evening

There will be an interval of fifteen minutes between the two acts

**For the Manoel Theatre Academy of Dramatic Arts**

Stage design and management	<i>Lino Mintoff</i>	<b>Lino Mintoff</b> (tutor)
Assisted by	<i>Anton Farrugia</i>	<b>Anton Farrugia*</b> , <b>Rebecca Vella*</b>
Set construction	<i>Marco Fenech</i>	<b>Marco Fenech*</b> / <b>Josef Fenech*</b>
Properties	<i>Rueben Spiteri</i>	<b>Rueben Spiteri*</b> , <b>Arthur Lapira*</b>
Costumes	<i>Michelle Muscat</i>	<b>Michelle Muscat*</b>
Make up	<i>Lina Galea Cumbo</i>	<b>Lina Galea Cumbo</b> (tutor)
Poster design		<b>Joseph Gatt*</b>
Publicity team		<b>Tony Cassar Darien</b> , <b>Maud Ruston</b> , <b>Stephanie Farrugia*</b> , <b>Charles Sammut*</b> , <b>Dorraine Ruffini*</b> , <b>Anton Farrugia*</b>
Prod. co-ordination		<b>Tony Cassar Darien</b> , <b>Josette Ciappara</b>

\*Students from M.T.A.D.A.

MTADA thanks the Manoel Theatre Management Committee, the Ministry of Education, Formosa Caneworks, Ta' Qali and St. Aloysius College.

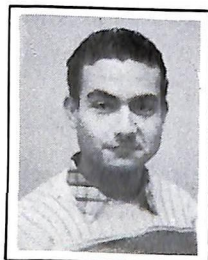
**For the Manoel Theatre**

Sound	<b>John Bruno</b>
Lights	<b>Vanni Laus</b>
Stage Carpenters	<b>Emmanuel Dalli</b> , <b>Francis Mifsud</b>
Booking Clerk	<b>Michelle Muscat</b>



*Jeanette De Bono*

Age: 22  
Occ: Manoel Theatre's Wardrobe Mistress  
Parts: Poetry Recital, Poems by William Blake; Clytemnestra, *Electra*, Sophocles; Brighella, *Commedia*, Bragaglia; *Movement Display* choreographed by A. Bezzina; Viola, Charmian, *Extracts from Shakespeare*; Bidillu, *Domino*, A. Portelli; Monologue, *Ivanov*, Chekov; Various, *Donkey Skin\** and *Il-Leġġenda ta' Hal Lampuka\**.



*Victor De Bono*

Age: 21  
Occ: Reading B.A. Eng. & Theatre Studies at University  
Parts: Narrator, *Witches*, Ted Hughes; Tutor, *Electra*, Sophocles; Pasquariello, *Commedia*, Bragaglia; Son, *Beauty and the Beast*, Ted Hughes, Othello, Clown, *Extracts from Shakespeare*; Fra Franġisku, *Domino*, A. Portelli; Monologue, *The Arrow in the Heart*, Hazlitt; Various, *Donkey Skin\**, and Toni, *Il-Leġġenda ta' Hal Lampuka\**.



*Tonio Fenech*

Age: 19  
Occ: Reading B. Commerce at University  
Parts: Tutor, *Electra*, Sophocles; Pantalone, *Commedia*, Bragaglia, Brutus, Iago, *Extracts from Shakespeare*; Ġanni, *Domino*, A. Portelli; Monologue, *The Jury*, Mickey Spillane, Prince, *Donkey Skin\** and Sajjied, Sur Lampoga, *Il-Leġġenda ta' Hal Lampuka\**.



*Stephen Grech*

Age: 19  
Occ: Postman  
Parts: Monologue, *Love*, Walter Scott; Aegisthus, *Electra*, Sophocles; Avukat, *Commedia*, Bragaglia; Angelo, Mark Anthony, *Extracts from Shakespeare*; Baruni, *Domino*, A. Portelli; Juan, *Il-Leġġenda ta' Hal Lampuka\**.  
(Participated in Youth Theatre Encounter at the Swan Theatre in Stratford upon Avon).



*Moira Muscat*

Age: 20  
Occ: Civil Servant  
Parts: Poetry Recital, Aunt Ermintrude, Roger Mc Gough; *Electra*, *Electra*, Sophocles; Colombina, *Commedia*, Bragaglia, Juliet, Isabelle, *Extracts from Shakespeare*; Maria, *Domino*, A. Portelli; Natalya, *The Proposal*, Chekhov; Monologue, *Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal*, Tennyson; Various, *Donkey Skin\** and Ċensina, *Il-Leġġenda ta' Hal Lampuka\**.



*Dorraine Ruffini*

Age: 20  
Occ: Sales Representative  
Parts: *Electra*, *Electra*, Sophocles; Male Puppet, *Commedia*, Bragaglia, *Movement Display* choreographed A. Bezzina; Juliet, Citizen, *Extracts from Shakespeare*; Monologue; *Letter*, Sarah Johnson; Various, *Donkey Skin\** and *Il-Leġġenda ta' Hal Lampuka\**.



*Marielle Dia Tabone*

Age: 20  
Occ: Reading Pharmacy at University  
Parts: *Electra*, Chorus, *Electra*, Sophocles; Trappola, *Commedia*, Bragaglia, Cleopatra, Citizen, *Extracts from Shakespeare*; Monologue, *Next Time I'll Sing to You*, James Saunders; Various, *Donkey Skin\** and *Il-Leġġenda ta' Hal Lampuka\**.

**THE TEACHING STAFF AT M.T.A.D.A.**

*Hist. of the Theatre*

**George Peresso**

*Movement*

**Anthony Bezzina**

*Voice*

**Josette Ciappara**

*Fencing*

**Vincent Borg**

*Make Up*

**Lina Galea Cumbo**

*Improvisation*

**John Suda**

*Greek/Roman*

**Ethel Farrugia**

*Commedia*

**Manuel Cauchi, Carmel S. Aquilina**

*Shakespeare*

**Jon Rosser**

*Criticism/Appreciation*

**Mario Azzopardi**

*Stagemangement*

**Lino Mintoff, Donald Friggieri**

*Scriptwriting*

**Charles Abela Mizzi**

*Assistant Principal*

**Josette Ciappara**

*Principal*

**Tony Cassar Darien**



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- On April 20th the Fourth Termers will embark on AN ELIZABETHAN MERRY GO ROUND at the Phoenicia Ballroom. The excerpts from the Bard will include, amongst others, Act 1 Scene 5 and Act 3 Scene 1 from **Romeo & Juliet**, Act 1 Scene 2 from the **Dream** and Act 2 Scene 3 from **A Winter's Tale**. Directed by Jon Rosser the programme is organised by the **British Culture Appreciation** and co-ordinated by Dr Paul Xuereb.

The End of Term productions are scheduled for May 26th at the Foyer of the Manoel Theatre. The packed programme includes, *A Happening*, devised and produced for the Juniors by Anton Farrugia; James Saunders' *The Wall* in a Maltese adaptation by Tony Cassar Darien, directed by Mario Azzopardi. The Fifth Termers are taking part, whilst the Second Termers will present sketches from the *Commedia dell'arte* as prepared and directed by Carmel S. Aquilina. The Final students will have their "Masters" under the care of Ethel Farrugia. Dr U. Mifsud Bonnici, Hon. Minister of Education, will then present the final End of Course certificates to the students.

- Besides the nine strong cast, appearing in tonight's production, final certificates will also be awarded to Marco Fenech, Reuben Spiteri and Arthur Lapira (*Stagemangement*) and Alfred C. Sant (*Scriptwriting*).
- A hearty *in bocca al lupo* to Anthony Portelli, the first ever final student from MTADA's scriptwriting course whose third play will be performed by the Atturi Productions later on in the month.

Applications for the next October intake at both Junior and Senior levels will be accepted during the month of May. Auditions for the three courses — Acting, Stagemangement, Scriptwriting — will be held during July and August. All information pertaining the courses will be published in the media.

The Manoel Theatre Management Committee wishes to thank the following concerns for their kind co-operation.

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