

SCMP - 6 JUNE '56

GARRISON PLAYERS

Season Of Ups And Downs
Ends Very Well

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The Garrison Players held their annual general meeting in the Green Room of the Missions to Seamen yesterday.

The out-going Chairman, Mr E. O'Neil Shaw, said, "We have come to the end of a season of ups and downs, but I think you will all agree that whatever the setbacks we may have encountered during the year, we have finished well in the up-

and-up in something like a blaze of glory."

During the meeting the past season's receipts and payments were passed and officials for the new season were elected.

In his report Mr O'Neil Shaw said, in part:

"We have come to the end of a season of ups and downs. But I think you will agree with me that whatever the setbacks we may have encountered during the year, we have finished well on the up-and-up in something like a blaze of glory (applause). Four

plays were produced during the year: 'Tons of Money,' 'Love from a Stranger,' 'The Circle' and 'Seagulls Over Sorrento.' Owing to an abrupt change in tenure of the office of Hon Treasurer during the year, it is not possible to present detailed statements of receipts and expenditure covering the first two plays, but it is almost certain that a profit, if only a small one, was made on each production.

Outstanding Success

"So far as the last two are concerned, 'Seagulls over Sorrento' was an outstanding

financial success, with a net profit of over \$1,000, and we were even able to make a small profit of approximately \$350 on 'The Circle'—which is a highly gratifying result, considering that the play was only presented for three nights instead of the usual four, and one of these presentations broke new ground in being made in Kowloon (as a special feature of the Arts Festival, for which this was our special production)—a venture entailing an extra actual cash expenditure of something like \$575 all told. Anyway, for the period February 1 to May 31 we are able to show an excess of income over expenditure of more than \$900—which, I think you will agree, is a very gratifying result. Our funds in hand at the commencement of the period amounted to \$2,175.86, out of which we paid certain outstanding royalties and expenses amounting to \$547.47, and the balance of \$1,648.39 added to our excess of income over expenditure of \$935.38 gives us funds in hand of the very satisfactory sum of just over \$2,500 with which to begin the new season under the management of a new Committee."

Office Bearers

Office bearers elected were: Chairman, Captain Colin McCallum-Stewart; Secretary, Major N. Evans; Treasurer, Mrs J. Rogers; Business Manager, Miss Mollie Crosbie, Radio member, Lt Gary Crook. The general committee, Major J. Rogers, Mr John Penn, Major R. Webb and Mr Mario Ferras.

yers Launch New Season

ARTISTIC SPICE

K. C. Harvey

WITH a brand-new committee and a liberal dash of enthusiasm, The Garrison Players have embarked upon the new season's activities. Home leave and postings take their toll in this Colony and the only remaining member of the 1955-1956 committee who continues for a further year (or more) is Mario Ferras.

Of the new committee, the majority are well-known, having been established here over months or years, but there are one or two fledglings to Hongkong and its non-professional stage.

CHAIRMAN is Colin MacCallum-Stewart, who made his debut with the Players in stage roles last season. Colin is of sturdy Scottish ancestry and has the forthright characteristics of most likeable and progressive Scots. Under his guidance, the committee should do well.

Neville Evans, remembered for his useful work in the Players' radio play productions, is the Secretary; Mollie Crosbie, another stalwart of stage and back-stage, takes over as Business Manager; John and Gladys Rogers handle, respectively, "Lectrics" and Treasurer. It should be a powerful team.

FOR the Record: The Players' secretary resides at 5, Staplehurst, Perth Street, Kowloon; so write to him if you have any queries or concrete suggestions. The Treasurer (and the "Lectrics" representative) reside at 2, Sandhurst, Perth Street, Kowloon. The Treasurer, Mrs. Rogers, would be delighted to hear from everyone interested in the Players—and, I imagine, would be even more interested in receiving from all concerned that modest, annual subscription of HK\$2.

THE Garrison Players' future activities include plans for regular readings of selected plays—"off the cuff readings with no stage, props or rehearsals..." Gladys Rogers has volunteered to run the first on Tuesday, Sept. 18, at the Missions to Seamen (at 8 p.m.). "Do come along," says the invitation; "we want all the support we can get."

The play selected for this reading is *His Excellency*.

"Get Together" evenings are planned by the Players. The idea is that everyone interested shall meet at the Missions to Seamen, "to listen collectively (and criticize) our own radio plays; also to discuss, in retrospect, our stage plays."

IT had been hoped to produce *The Happy Marriage* by John Clements, but the play has not yet been made available for Hongkong. The Players have substituted *Ten Little Niggers* (presumably the Agatha Christie version) which has been staged here within recent years. Although hardly an inspired choice, it is a play worth repeating. Colin MacCallum Stewart will produce. The Casting Meeting is on Tuesday, Aug. 21, at the Missions to Seamen (8 p.m.). Please note the date—and keep it!

I AM told that the other three plays to be presented by the Players this season will be selected from *His Excellency*, *Black Limelight*, *A Question of Fact*, *Fly Away Peter*—and the Emlyn Williams epic, *Night Must Fall*.

I WOULD welcome advance information regarding seasonal activities from the remainder of our stage groups. Will the Stage Club, Linden Players, Kai Tak Players, and others, write to me, c/o The Hongkong Standard, 108, Windsor House? Due prominence will be given to forthcoming stage events and other interesting happenings in the Colony.

*TAILPIECE From a 14-year-old young lady, having seen an outspoken film version of a controversial novel: You know, *Mother*, the way these so-called facts-of-life are presented is so basically elementary.

SCMP - 15 AUG '56

Garrison Players

Four Plays Planned For Coming Season

Plans are well in hand for presentation of the play "Ten Little Niggers" by the Garrison Players in October as their season curtain-raiser. The Players had hoped to produce "Happy Marriage" by John Clements during the second week in October, but have been advised that the play is not yet available for Hongkong.

"Ten Little Niggers" will be produced by Colin MacCallum Stewart.

Three other plays will be given by the Players during the season, and these will be chosen from "His Excellency," "Black Limelight," "A Question of Fact," "Fly Away Peter," and "Night Must Fall." The second play will be staged in the first week in December.

On the radio side, a comedy, "Fifty Pigs," has been chosen. There are parts for six men and five women.

The Players also plan to hold regular play readings during the season and the first will be on Tuesday, September 18, at 8 p.m. at the Missions to Seamen when Mrs Rogers will present "His Excellency."

Among other activities planned are "get together" evenings at which radio plays will be played back and discussions will take place on stage plays in retrospect.

Scmp - 13 + 20 AUG '56

The Garrison Players

WILL HOLD AN

AUDITION

FOR A

RADIO PLAY

(A COMEDY CALLED "FIFTY PIGS")

at

8.30 P.M.

MONDAY, 3 SEPT., 1956

in the

CONCERT HALL RADIO H.K.

(6th floor Electra House)

There are six male and five female parts

The Garrison Players

will hold a

PLAY READING

(not a casting meeting)

OF

“HIS EXCELLENCY”

at

THE MISSIONS TO SEAMEN

on

Tuesday, 18th Sept. 1956, at 8 p.m.

OLD AND NEW MEMBERS WILL BE WELCOME