

DECEMBER 1960

# CASTING MEETING

## For PETER PAN

CHILDREN (7-16) ESPECIALLY WELCOME

TUESDAY, NOV. 8 5.30 PM.

USIS THEATRE

20 Ice House St.

*The Garrison Players*

Scmp - November 7, 1960

HK Standard  
December 5, 1960



Scmp  
December 14, 1960

Radio Hongkong's Ted Thomas is in for a rough time in his part as Captain Hook in the Garrison Players' production of Sir James Barrie's famous fairy tale, "Peter Pan."

This picture by a staff photographer shows Ted in his "death throes" at the dress rehearsal yesterday.

Perhaps his many-toothed opponent is getting his own back for the playing of the record: "Let's Knock the Croc!"

### Production Of "Peter Pan"

A large cast, all children excepting three adults, is busy rehearsing an adaptation of Sir James M. Barrie's "Peter Pan," a Garrison Players production which will open on Friday, December 16, at the Missions to Seamen.

Regan Babb is cast in the title role. Wendy will be played by Margaret Blunten and John by David Aylward. The beloved dog, Nana, will be performed by Priscilla Lacey and the snapping crocodile by Tim Yourieff. Michael will be played by Roger Babb and Mrs Darling by Antoinette Devonshire.

Ted Thomas will be seen as Captain Hook. The other two adult roles—that of Mr Darling and Smee—will be taken by Bill Smiley and Mario Ferras.

### On Record By K. C. Harvey

## Peter Pan Will Fly!

WITH Christmas near and thoughts of seasonal fare in our minds, it is encouraging to learn from The Garrison Players that the response to their casting notice for PETER PAN was "staggeringly enthusiastic".

The hardest task confronting Players' secretary Ellen Watson and Players' member Iris Crosbie has been to select a cast from all the talented children who read for the play.

After considerable evaluation, the choice has been made and the main characters will be filled as follows:

Captain Hook, Ted Thomas; Smee, his chief villainous

lieutenant, Mario Ferras; Mr. Darling, Michael Roche.

All the other parts will be played by children:

Peter Pan, Regan Babb; Wendy, Margaret Blunden; John, David Aylward; Michael, Roger Babb; Nana, Priscilla Lacey; Mrs. Darling, Antoinette Devonshire; Crocodile, Tim Yourieff; lost Boys, Christopher Rich, Vincent Mellor, Morag Reid, Deborah Osborne, Nikki Mellor, Paul Bard; Pirates, Judi Willard, Anne Hickling, John Willard, Anne Aylward, Frances Blunden.

Friday, Dec. 16, at 7.30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 17, at 3.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 18, at 3.30 p.m. By having two evening performances for adults and two matinees for children, the best possible utilisation of audience potential can be achieved.

For this production of PETER PAN, artist Cui Sichel is designing the sets and I am assured that these will be "exciting". Another highlight will be several ballet sequences, to be danced by children from Carol Bateman's Dance School.

And, for those who enjoy the technicalities of true theatre—Peter Pan will fly through the air with the greatest of ease...

THE Garrison Players will stage PETER PAN at the Missions to Seamen, Gloucester Road, on the following dates:

HK Standard December 6, 1960

Scmp December 3, 1960

## TICKET SALE FOR THE GARRISON PLAYERS PRODUCTION PETER PAN

DEC. 16 - 17 AT 7:30 P. M.

DEC. 17 - 18 AT 3:30 P. M.

KING GEORGE'S HALL - MISSIONS TO SEAMEN

### OPENS TODAY

BOOK AT SKINNER'S  
Union House, Chater Rd.

PRICES: \$6.8  
(Children Half Price)

### PANTOMIME PROCEEDS



The Garrison Players yesterday gave money from their Christmas production of "Peter Pan" to social welfare work. On behalf of the Players Mr Ted Thomas handed a cheque for \$1,000 to Mrs M. Sutton (left), Secretary of the Society for the Protection of Children. — (Staff Photographer).

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SCMP - November 7, 1960

# TRIALS OF A DISC-JOCKEY



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HK Standard December 7, 1960

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BOOK AT SKINNER'S  
UNION HOUSE, CHATER RD.

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(CHILDREN HALF PRICE)



Samp December 15, 1960

### ABOUT TICKETS FOR

The  
Garrison  
Players'

# PETER PAN

DEC. 17-18 MATINEES — SOLD OUT...SOLD OUT...SOLD OUT

DEC. 16-17 at 7.30 P.M. — HURRY, NOT MANY SEATS LEFT

King George's Hall — Missions to Seamen

BOOK NOW  
AT SKINNER'S  
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WAN KIU YAT Po February 9, 1961

**你護兒童會**  
**又收到善款**  
**各區分會招待貧童**  
**今天上午繼續舉行**

由該會籌備處派員，帶同各區分會，分赴各區，向各界人士，勸募善款，以資助該會各項活動。據悉，該會自成立以來，一直致力於改善兒童福利，並定期舉行各項活動，如招待貧童、義賣等。此次籌備處派員分赴各區，是為了擴大籌款範圍，以支持該會各項工作。

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# A play for the children by the children

by JOHN LUFF

The performance of Peter Pan by the Garrison Players, which opened last night at King George's Hall, was mainly given by the children for the children.

On the other hand, they did permit one or two roles to be taken by the grown-ups, in particular, Ted Thomas as a gory Captain Hook, with Mario Ferras as his villainous aide de camp.

There was also Antoinette Devonshire as Mrs Darling, and Bill Smyly as the flustered Mr Darling. But it was clearly understood by a capacity audience, mainly composed of children who took along their parents as a treat, that the adults were privileged, only so far that the roles allotted them were physically beyond the capacity of the children. Having got that right, we will turn to the play adapted by Doris Rich from Barrie's larger work, and produced by Ellen Watson.

### ENJOYED IT

The main thing was, the children enjoyed it, and that is as it was intended, so I intend all that follows to be an appreciation. I love watching children at play, and I love watching their parents' proud faces.

Margaret Blunden was a charming Wendy, and Jane Robertson a sweet Tinker Bell; Regan Babb a pert Peter Pan, and Priscilla Lacey a sour Nana (the dog).

David Aylward and Roger Babb made a nice line up as the male Darling children, while Christopher Rich, Morsg Reid, Vincent Mellor, Nikki Mellor, Paul Bard, Deborah Osborne, Jon Willard, Michael Hickling, Anne Aylward, Frances Blunden, and Judi Willard, completed the straight roles.

Then there was Tim Yourieff as the crocodile, unseen until the final curtain. As none of the Darling children can really fly, nor can Peter Pan, they had to get Latifa Rahman, Margaret Hsu, Rosalind Wu, and Chan Lei Ha to fly for them, while Adrienne Howell did the flying for Tinker Bell.

The rest of the performances are sold out, but maybe, if you present yourself at the door, and swear you believe in fairies, you might be lucky, but I don't guarantee it.

## GARRISON PLAYERS' "PETER PAN" WILL DELIGHT THE YOUNG

(By ALEC M. HARDIE)

"Do you believe in fairies?" If your answer is wrong, do not go to King George's Hall, The Missions to Seamen, this weekend. The Garrison Players have tried to reproduce an essentially Christmas atmosphere by producing the perennial "Peter Pan" with a cast mainly of young people for whom the play was originally written.

This play may not be J. M. Barrie at his best but from the applause and squeals of the younger members of last night's audience he apparently still retains some theatrical magic. To Barrie and this young cast, despite all elderly doubts, we must offer congratulations for enjoyment clearly given to the audience and to the cast themselves.

So while modern critics may say Barrie is sentimental, outdated or nonsensically whimsical, yet a Hongkong's audience can share the entertainment that every year is a popular London Christmas favourite. **Spirit of Youth**

Let us not be too serious about this production. Because the cast were enjoying themselves, the audience also enjoyed themselves. The "stars" were rightly Peter Pan, Wendy, Captain Hook and Smee.

Regan Babb suggested "the spirit of youth"; she may not have been as spiteful as Jean Forbes-Robertson or as impish as Ann Todd but probably this proves that only age can make you regret your youth. It was a light-hearted performance nicely, if not very sharply defined. I wish Peter had been allowed to fly!

Margaret Blunden was particularly good as Wendy because of her phrasing, emphasis and timing. And she looked charmingly motherly.

Ted Thomas and Mario Ferras ranted and roared in the

good effect. We were glad when they appeared. I hope the young members of the audience were as terrified of Hook as I was when I first saw this play.

It would be invidious to pick out any single member of the supporting cast; it is a children's play and all the children showed an individuality of character that probably their seniors would lack.

### The Faults

Now for the faults. I think the Producer and "Adaptor" were somewhat afraid of the text and the result was that Barrie disappeared in a series of episodes not very clearly or coherently connected. The important moments were sometimes missed; we were never told why the crocodile had an alarm-clock tick (and why was the spectacular crocodile not allowed to appear on stage?). Nor could I quite understand why a mimic ballet had to replace Barrie's own script. Latifa Rahman had a delicacy and sense of rhythm which were commendable but the famous Tinker Bell dying scene should have been done by the "real" Peter.

The whole production was too slow. This may have been due to "first night nerves" of such a young cast. I am sure it will speed up and we can cheerfully congratulate all these young people for giving us in Hongkong a Christmas entertainment, which, despite all its faults still reflects the appropriate dream of youth.

Samp - December 17, 1960

Samp February 9, 1961



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China Mail  
December 17,  
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Scmp December 15, 1960

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# 保護兒童會

## 又收到善款

### 各區分會招待貧童

### 今天上午繼續舉行

(特訊) 港駐軍劇團去年十二月八日演劇籌得款項，半數撥交本港保護兒童會，作為協助保護兒童會招待貧苦家庭婦孺祝新春聯歡會之用。

項一千元支票一張，帶交保護兒童會灣仔修頓球場內東區分會，由該會秘書薩頓夫人代收。曾參加駐軍劇團義演之香港電台人員譚馬士，也參加此項簡短之送交善款儀式。

一連五天同時在保護兒童會六個分會舉行之招待貧童預祝新年會，還有今天上午，即暫告完畢。五日來，受惠兒童皆笑逐顏開，既有食物吃，也有衣物和玩具帶回家去。昨晨在東區分會舉行的新年會，除了分發餅乾，麵飽，玩具，衣物等之外，還當場有汽水和熱騰騰的哈咕分發。

又關於此次新年會之費用，趙聿修先生亦會捐助一千元云。(景) 下圖：港駐軍劇團演劇籌款一千元支票，由香港電台譚

馬士送交保護兒童會秘書薩頓夫人代收，中左者為屈遜夫人。(參益源攝)