

APRIL 1961

Hong Kong Standard

April 21, 1961

GARRISON PLAYERS

Announce:

CASTING MEETING

For:

**AN OLD-FASHIONED
MUSIC HALL REVUE**

Scmp
February 1, 1961

On Record

By K. C. Harvey

Old-Time Music Hall

THE Little theatre at the Missions to Seamen, Gloucester Road, will be transformed into an old-fashioned Music Hall, complete with separate tables for the "customers." You will have seen the intriguing posters heralding the event: the coming of "The

Before the opening curtain and during the intervals, Chairman Michael Bulmer will introduce Musical Specialities offered by The Singing Waiters — Mrs. Betty Smith, Mr. Alec Reeve, Miss Chris Barber, and others.

The theatre will be decorated in the style of the era of the play (The Drunkard) and audiences will have the fun and the experience of enjoying the fare while sitting at tables and sipping beer — beer to be dispensed by waiters and hostesses recruited from the Players and suitably costumed.

PATRONS will be requested even encouraged — to take part in the proceedings by vigorously hissing the villain and cheering on the triumph days of virtue, as the devious plot of The Drunkard is unfolded. What fun and games, what a novelty, this should be!

The Drunkard is directed by Barbara Lawrence, for whom this is a sweet and sad occasion. This will be Barbara's last act for the Garrison Players, before she and her husband, Loren, leave the Colony next month for home and transfer to Tel Aviv.

Both have been strong supporters of all Players' activities and have been closely identified with production, performance and back-stage operations. We shall miss them.

FOR The Drunkard, a large cast has been selected and schooled — mainly, I predict, in the gentle art of melodrama. The performers include Mr. Peter Holmes, Mrs. Patricia McTavish, Mr. Michael Tyler, Mr. Stephen Wailes, Mrs. Diane Peacock and Mrs. Myra Robertson.

Times have changed, since those remarkable days of the Music Hall and such tear-jerkers as The Drunkard.

It was then MISTER Holmes — and so forth. The general "handle" was an essential part of the presentation. And comparing the Garrison Players' current representation of an old-time play with some of the old-time plays of our London theatres, there is a touch of the authentic in this nostalgic publicity.

LOOKING back on those playbills of olden times, I wonder if the modern counterpart adequately conveys the lush sentimentality of play presentations of Victorian days?

Anyway, a visit to the King George Hall of The Missions to Seamen will provide an evening of make-believe and colourful entertainment. The Garrison Players have asked me to state that nightly capacity of the little theatre is limited to 104 persons; they suggest that those who intend to enjoy an evening of Music Hall in an old-time way should book their tables well in advance of opening night.

THE Players forthcoming presentation of The Drunkard heralds a new era in local theatre enterprise and performance and back-stage operations. The Hongkong Stage Club's recent production was very

much of a "Breath of S" — that, too, represented a thing out-of-the-ordinary comedy line. It was enthusiastically received.

The Garrison Players produce further novelty staging something entirely new and different: Music has died, but its spirit endures.

It is by re-creating the fun and gaiety of past times as by reviving such corny melodramas as The Drunkard, that the theatre patron will be reminded of what were, for the masses, not only "The Good Old Days," but, also, the fabulous days.

Music Hall



THE GARRISON PLAYERS
present for your entertainment

THE DRUNKARD

(a moral domestic melodrama in 3 acts)

FEATURING

Mr. Michael Tyler	Squire Cribbs
Mr. Peter Holmes	Edward Middleton
Mrs. Patricia McTavish	Mary Wilson
Mrs. Myra Robertson	Mrs. Wilson
Mrs. Diane Peacock	Agnes Dowton
Mr. Stephen Wailes	Arden Rencelaw
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Mr. Tony Marron	Mr. Forsythe
Mr. Basil Bressler	Farmer Gates
Mr. Marrio Ferras	Farmer Stevens
Mr. Michael Talbot	A Messenger
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MUSICAL SPECIALITIES

SINGING WAITERS

MRS. BETTY SMITH

MR. PATTI DUNCAN

MR. ALEC REEVES

AND A GALA CAST

MISSIONS TO SEAMEN, Gloucester Road

April 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 1961
at 8.00 p.m.

Refreshments served at your table. Booking at Skinners

PRINTED BY YE OLDE PRINTERS, LTD., HONG KONG

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Patricia McTavish and Peter Holmes rehearsing a tense scene in the Garrison Players' production of "The Drunkard," an old-time melodrama, which once made people cry and now makes them laugh. It will open Monday night at Missions to Seamen and be repeated nightly until April 29.

**Garrison Players
Presenting
'The Drunkard'**

When the Garrison Players present their version of "The Drunkard" at the Missions to Seamen Hall on April 24 through April 29, the audience will be seated at small tables.

In short, the atmosphere will be that of an old-fashioned music hall.

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Hong Kong Standard
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Novel Type Of
Entertainment**

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The audiences will be seated at tables, and beer and refreshments will be served during the evening.

It is believed to be the first time this type of entertainment has been offered by an amateur dramatic group here.

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AN OLD-FASHIONED MUSIC HALL REVUE

Which needs:

**SINGERS, DANCERS
COMICS, MAGICIANS
SPECIALTY TURNS,
ACTORS, YODELERS
AND TRAINED SEALS**

COME ONE, COME ALL

To:

Missions to Seamen

At:

**EIGHT P.M.
FEB. 2ND**

Scmp February 1, 1961

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Old-Time Music Hall

THERE'S nothing new under the sun, according to an old saying. But, for Hongkong, something original and new to local playgoers, will be staged this coming week.

You will have seen the intriguing posters heralding the event: the coming of "The Drunkard," which highlights a presentation by The Garrison Players, of Old-Time Music.

Commencing Monday and playing nightly, the Players—entertaining with "something new" for the entertainment patrons—are "rushing headlong" into the final preparation for their new production, the last of 1960-1961 season.

THE little theatre at the Missions to Seamen, Gloucester Road, will be transformed into an old-fashioned Music Hall, complete with separate tables for the "customers," Singing Waiters, that old-time nostalgia and all the other touches of the days of yore.

Before the opening curtain and during the intervals, Chairman Michael Bulmer will introduce Musical Specialties, offered by The Singing Waiters—Mrs. Betty Smith, Mr. Alec Reeve, Miss Chris Barber, and others.

The theatre will be decorated in the style of the era of the play (The Drunkard) and audiences will have the fun and the experience of enjoying the fare while sitting at tables and sipping beer—beer to be dispensed by waiters and hostesses recruited from the Players and suitably costumed.

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The performers include Mr. Peter Holmes, Mrs. Patricia McTavish, Mr. Michael Tyler, Mr. Stephen Wailes, Mrs. Diane Peacock and Mrs. Myra Robertson.

Times have changed, since those remarkable days of Music Hall and such theatre-jerkers as The Drunkard. It was then MISTER HOLMES—and so forth. The general "handle" was an essential part of the presentation. And comparing the Garrison Players' current representation of an old-time playbill with some of the old-time notices that still grace the foyers of our London theatres, there is a touch of the authentic in this nostalgic publicity.

Audience To Join In Frolics

The Garrison Players' Gay Nineties' frolic in which the audiences are to be invited to join, will commence at the Missions to Seamen Hall on Monday at 8 pm and continue each evening until April 29.

"The Drunkard" is the title of the old-fashioned thriller to be portrayed with satirical over-emphasis by local artists in a good-natured programme with the accent on music hall atmosphere. Music by the "Gaslighters" a special combo.

Breathless Acts

The three breathless acts will feature players of dramatic calibre, including Peter Holmes, Michael Tyler, Patricia McTavish, Robert Dewar, Myra Robertson, Celia Simpson, Diane Peacock, Stephen Wailes, Victoria Bryan, Basil Bressler, Mario Ferras, Michael Talbot and Tony Marrow.

Ticket holders will be seated at tables and served by singing waiters and waitresses, circulating before and between the acts, dispensing beer, mineral waters and light entertainment of vocal flavour.

Spectators will be encouraged to applaud the hero, hiss the villain, and sign with the heroine but are requested not to smuggle tomatoes or similar ammunition into the theatre.

The Master of Ceremonies will be Michael Bulmer. The singing servers are Alec Reeves, Roger Pennels, Betty Smith, Margaret Holmes, Chris Barber and Patti Duncan.

PATRONS will be requested even encouraged—to take part in the proceedings by vigorously hissing the villain and cheering on the triumph of virtue, as the devious plot of The Drunkard is unfolded. What fun and games, what a novelty, this should be!

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Scmp March 26, 1961

The Garrison Players

Regret the publications of the wrong dates for their production of

"THE DRUNKARD"

And appreciate the many ticket inquiries

"THE DRUNKARD"

will be presented

APRIL 24—25—26—27—28 and 29 at the

MISSIONS TO SEAMEN HALL

Ticket sale opening will be announced soon

Scmp March 22, 1961

Garrison Players To Present "The Drunkard"

When the Garrison Players present their version of "The Drunkard" at the Missions to Seamen Hall from April 24 to 29, the audience will be seated at small tables, the better to be served beer or soft drinks and the better to pound upon as they hiss indignation at the villain.

In short, the atmosphere will be that of an old-fashioned music hall, which long disappeared from the Hongkong scene.

Besides "The Drunkard," a domestic melodrama in three acts, the programme will feature a number of specialty acts, as well as bonus performances by singing waiters and waitresses.

Barbara Lawrence, who produced such earlier Garrison Players' vehicles as "Amphitryon 38" and "Peer Gynt," is in charge of these informal proceedings. Sets are being designed by Cuy Siehel.

Scmp April 20, 1961



Patricia McTavish and Peter Holmes rehearsing a tense scene in the Garrison Players' production of "The Drunkard," an old-time melodrama, which once made people cry and now makes them laugh. It will open Monday night at Missions to Seamen and be repeated nightly until April 29.

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