

OCTOBER, 1961

# The 'Jimmy Porter' role in the production of "Look Back in Anger"

Richard Marquand, who is to play Jimmy Porter in the Garrison Players' production of the famous Osborne play next month, was born in Wales.

He has a wide and varied experience of the professional theatre, where most of his friends work. He went to school in London, and won a scholarship to King's College, Cambridge in Modern Languages. He speaks French, German, Spanish and Mandarin. Before taking up his scholarship he left England and became a student at the University of Aix en Provence. In Provence he met Jean Vilar and the T.N.P. Actors and was given an opportunity of acting with them in "Le Mariage de Figaro" at Avignon. At Cambridge he became a member of the famous Marlowe Society under the direction of George Rylands. He played Orestes in Jean-Paul Sartre's "The Flies", directed by John Barton, the Assistant Director of the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, who also invited him to play Prince Hal in both parts of "Henry IV". Toby Robertson chose him to play Vendice in his production of "The Revenger's

Tragedy", and to play Gaveston in "Edward II". These plays toured Cambridge, Stratford on Avon, Bristol and London. "Edward II" was recorded for the Third Programme of the BBC.

### Shakespeare's works

With past and present members of the Marlowe Society, Richard Marquand has taken part in the recording of the works of Shakespeare by the Argo Record Company, where he played, among other roles,



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the lead in "Two Gentlemen of Verona", Romeo in "Romeo and Juliet", Claudio, in "Measure for Measure", and the Dauphin in "King John". In the recording of Shakespeare's sonnets, his voice has been mistaken for that of Richard Burton.

When many of his Cambridge friends went into the theatre, wanderlust brought him to Hongkong. It was inevitable that he should gravitate to television, radio and the local stage, and he is best known as a TV newscaster, interviewer and critic. Hongkong drama audiences will look forward to his portrayal of Osborne's hero-villain in "Look Back in Anger": it should prove a theatrical tour de force for which Richard Marquand is well qualified.

## CHOSEN FOR LEADING ROLE

Mr Richard Marquand, well-known local television personality, has been chosen for the leading role of Jimmy Porter in the Garrison Players' forthcoming production of John Osborne's "Look Back in Anger". Playing opposite him as Mrs Alison Porter will be Mrs June Armstrong-Wright, well-known on the local stage. Other members of the cast include Mrs Thelma Stuart, Mr David Jordan and Mr Bob Hanna. The play, which is being produced by Mr Colwyn Haye, will be presented at King George's Hall, Missions to Seamen, on October 19, 20 and 21.

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## A TENSE MOMENT



Thelma Stuart plays Helena, the other woman in Jimmy Porter's life, in John Osborne's famous play "Look Back in Anger." Here she is seen in a tense moment with Richard Marquand in rehearsal for the Garrison Players' production next month.

radio career started at the age of 10 when she first appeared in a BBC drama. Besides acting in and producing radio plays, she collaborates with Murray Leavitt in the popular local "Woman's Hour". To Helena, Thelma Stuart brings talent, versatility, and a wide experience of the theatre-world.

She arrived in Hongkong in 1957, just in time, as she says, for the Garrison Players' production of "You Can't Take it with You", in which she played an American actress. She seems fated to take theatrical parts, for Helena, in the current play, is also an actress.

### Well qualified

One of the best qualified local amateurs, Thelma Stuart has had extensive experience in her native Middlesex and the North of England. Graduating from "walk-ons" and "maid-parts" she has played Regina in Ibsen's "Ghosts", the wife of "The Paragon" and the lead in "Blithe Spirit". Local audiences will remember her in "The Skin of our Teeth" and as the heroine of "Plaintiff in a Pretty Hat". Her experience in theatre has not been confined to acting; she has worked backstage in every department and is probably the only actress in the Colony to have studied professional stage make-up at Leichner. Prominently associated with the local stage, she is also well known as a contributor to Radio Hongkong. Indeed her

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June Armstrong-Wright is one of the best known local actresses and has been associated with the amateur and professional stage since leaving school.

She comes from Lowestoft in East Anglia where her earliest parts in repertory, included roles in "The Heiress" and "Saloon Bar". On arrival in Hongkong she was soon active in the Stage Club with Moore's "Miser" and Rattigan's "Deep Blue Sea".

Her range is impressive but when asked to name favourite roles she chose the serio-comic

Festival of Arts production of "Lady Precious Stream". She is currently a well-known voice on Radio Hongkong request programmes.

To Alison, in the Garrison Players' production of the controversial Osborne play next month, June Armstrong-Wright will be bringing wide experience and proven talent. This was the part Mary Ure made famous in the play and the film but with this individual artist Hongkong can expect a fresh interpretation of a demanding role.



Aikmena in "Amphitryon 38", the mischievous schoolgirl Myra in "Fly Away Peter"—both memorable locally—and the lead in "Simon & Laura" in a recent home leave production with the Lowestoft Players.

She has not confined herself to the stage and in radio drama has played a diversity of parts ranging from Mrs Archer, in a parody of that immortal programme, to Silver Stream in a

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Robert Hanna is to play Cliff the Welshman, in the Osborne play opening on Wednesday, October 18, at King George's Hall, Missions to Seamen. A very difficult role, Cliff has to try and provide light relief in the emotional storms that very nearly wreck the marriage of Jimmy and Alison Porter.

A talented newcomer to the Hongkong stage Robert Hanna, like the other members of the strong cast for this play, has had considerable amateur and semi-professional experience. Taking a professional post in Australia from his native Surrey in 1952, he soon joined the National Theatre Group in Melbourne, a semi-professional body with its own theatre and full-time producer. There he met and worked with Ray Lawler ("Summer of the Seventeenth Doll") who was, for a time, permanent actor and producer.

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Sophocles' "Electra" (as the ancient Pedagogus). He also found time to appear in Australian T.V.

Those who saw him most recently in a Garrison Players' Workshop production as "The Apollo of Bellac", know that he brings considerable ability to the current production.

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## LOCAL ACTOR



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## "Look Back" was almost an inevitable choice

Colwyn Haye, who was asked by the Garrison Players to produce their opening play for the season, chose the controversial Osborne story not so much for its shock value as its theatrical quality.

After wading through the stale porridge of half a dozen conventional amateur pieces "Look Back" was almost an inevitable choice, although not for the reason it achieved immediate fame six years ago.

Then, Jimmy Porter's outrageous tirades shocked and titillated audiences, sending them storming out at the end of the first act or nailing them to their seats to stay and cheer. Osborne found fame because he so successfully aroused people—as one critic put it—"to pehewing delectation of the bolshy young rotter who behaved so abominably to his wife, the colonel's daughter, or with a dizzy exaltation at all the lovely hate flying about".



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Colwyn Haye believes that local audiences will find "Look Back in Anger" good theatre: the startling vitality of its dialogue, the poignancy of its basic situation—that of two young people trapped by themselves—compel attention. With the strong cast he has chosen, the opening of the play next Wednesday, October 18, at King George's Hall, Missions to Seamen, should prove memorable.

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Amongst others Robert Hanna played in Emlyn Williams' "Trespass" (Saviello, a 'real' Welshman), Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream" (Demetrius), "Richard II"

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