

# RATTLING GOOD COMEDY

THE Garrison Players are presenting "Rattle Of A Simple Man" at the City Hall Theatre tomorrow night.

This is a comedy by Charles Dyer that had a long run in London and New York a few years back.

## STAR ENTERTAINMENT

It is the story of a middle-aged man in London from the North for the Cup Final.

Percy (Mike Clarke) is a shy, innocent man who, accepting a friend's bet, picks up prostitute Cyrenne (Erica Bridgman) and it tells of the situations that arise.

### Lonely

He discovers that Cyrenne is as lonely and insecure as himself.

Playing the part of Ricard, Percy's friend, is David Simpson.

"Rattle Of A Simple Man" is directed by Geoffrey Eden and is a rattling good comedy.



# WANTED TO BUY

**FOOTBALL RATTLE** for Manchester United supporter Percy Winthram during Garrison Players production "Rattle of a Simple Man" City Hall Theatre, 17-20 February.

**INTERESTED PURCHASING** secondhand Encyclopedia Britannica not early than 1965 edition. Reply to Box 1235. "S. C. M. Post" stating telephone number.

# New play at City Hall

POST

17-2-70

A play by Charles Dyer, "Rattle of A Simple Man," will be performed at the City Hall Theatre for four nights from tonight.

The producer, Geoffrey Eden, and the cast of the play, Mike Clarke, Erica Bridgeman and David Simpson, are members of the Garrison Players.

# IT'S A SHOCKER!



**S**OME scenes from the drama "Rattle of a Simple Man" may shock audiences who see the play when it opens tonight in City Hall. Here's one scene from the play, where Mike Clarke - as the "Simple Man" - tries to make love to Erica Bridgeman, who plays the role of a prostitute. STAR 17-2-70.

**VALENTINE TREAT** for  
your husband. Buy tickets  
for **Rattle Of A Simple Man.**  
Garrison Players production  
17th to 20th February at  
City Hall Theatre. Tickets  
from Harry Odell's Showbox,  
Alexandra Arcade.

**RATTLE OF A SIMPLE**  
Man opening next Tuesday  
at the City Hall Theatre 8.30  
p.m. Four performances.  
Tickets from Harry Odell's  
Showbox, Alexandra Arcade.  
A Garrison Players produc-  
tion.



**WHAT HAPPENS** when the  
Cup Final is over and the  
men go on the town? You  
can find out tomorrow night  
when **Rattle Of A Simple  
Man** opens at 8.30 p.m. at  
the City Hall Theatre. Tic-  
kets from **Harry Odell's  
Showbox, Alexandra Arcade,**  
or evenings at the City Hall.





CHINA DAIK 18-2-70.

# Portrait of a lonely man in London

It's the moment of truth—in the Garrison Player's production of Charles Dyer's *Rattle of a Simple Man*.

There's Percy (Mike Clarke), a middle-aged millworker who's come up for the Cup Final in London, undressing in

a prostitute's bed-sitter (pictured above).

The prostitute, Cyrenne, is played by Erica Bridgman.

## Insecure

Percy, shy and inexperienced gets to the girl's

bed-sitter after a Cup-Final pub crawl and a £50 dare.

How he copes with the situation and, in doing so, discovers in Cyrenne a person as lonely and insecure as himself, is the comedy and pathos of *Rattle of a Simple Man*.

The production is directed by Geoffrey Eden, showing at the City Hall Theatre tonight, tomorrow night and Friday night at 8.30 pm.

Tickets available at City Hall or Harry Odell's Showbox.



## Percy makes fine

S.C.P. 18.270

## 'Simple Man'

**R**ATTLE of a Simple un-naughty joke, —  
Man," a Garrison hilariously badly told,  
Players' production, opened at the City Hall Theatre last night, and runs until Friday.

The "rattle" belongs to middle-aged, north-country soccer fan, Percy, who is 'Up for the Cup' in London, and, more to the point, 'Down from the Mill'.

After the match, Percy gets sloshed, and with the lads dances "in a ring round Eros" (the statue), and having bet his chum Ginger that he'll . . . well, you know . . . that evening, he proceeds to bumble in unsteady circles around another Eros, in the shape (not a bad one) of a lonely and unhappy prostitute named Cyrenne.

Percy, a virgin scout-master, well played by Mike Clarke; he strikes just the right note of false bravado — "I've seen hundreds of women" — balanced with common sense and naivete, honesty and unconscious hypocrisy.

He is a failure with women, and so invents little protective lies, such as boasted dancing ability.

But when relaxed, he talks of the "mill" and the "lads", and even tries a so

ERICA Bridgman's Cyrenne, though good, was a shade too motherly, I thought, and her angry speeches don't quite carry the bitterness they should.

Cyrenne doesn't care a pig's bottom for anyone, and Percy can hang himself in his Lancashire cotton drawers for all she cares.

Gradually, she does come to care, but anger and despair are never far away, and the message still has to be rammed past Saint Percy's halo: "I'm no different to anyone else".

Cyrenne, too needs to invent an imaginary life, (she has slopped in a cafe, and was raped by her stepfather) and a very complete life of brigadiers, butlers, and halcyon Oxford days is exposed when Percy at last tumbles. Erica Bridgman is at her best here.

In all, Geoffrey Eden has given us an enjoyable production, with good scenery, lighting and sounds off (including the original unflushable bog). He deserves full houses. — Simon Ellis.

**NO SMALLTALK?** You'll have plenty to talk about if you see the Garrison Players production **Rattle Of A Simple Man.** Tonight and tomorrow night, 8.30 p.m., City Hall Theatre. Tickets at door or from Harry Odell's Show-box, Alexandra Arcade.

**UNLUCKY FRIDAY** Thirteenth if you haven't yet bought your tickets for **Rattle Of A Simple Man**. A Garrison Players production at the City Hall Theatre from 17th to 20th February. Tickets from Harry Odell's Showbox, Alexandra Arcade, or evenings at City Hall.



# ERICA PLAYS HER ROLE AS A 'CALL GIRL'

STANDARD 17-2-70

THE GARRISON Player's third production of the theatre season, and the first for 1970, opened on Tuesday night at the City Hall with Charles Dyer's *Rattle of a Simple Man*.

Already made into a movie version, the local production was

undertaken by Geoffrey Eden who deserves credit for a job well-done.

The three main roles went to Erica Bridgman as Cyrenne the prostitute, Mike Clarke as Percy the shy, and David Simpson as Ricard, Cyrenne's brother.

This is Erica's third debut on Hongkong stage, but not quite up

to the standard of her role as "Karen" in "The Anniversary". As Cyrenne, I felt she should have been a little more obviously brassy in her prostitute role.

Her performance was good, but lacking in attack and freedom.

As Percy, Mike Clarke is very good. His naturalness for the part is well conveyed to the audience who are forever kept in stitches.

As a shy inexperienced man who accepts his friend's bet to go home with Cyrenne, he comes on like a gangbuster, but unfortunately, neither he nor Erica bring much pathos to their parts.

Mike has not overdone it this time as in "The Anniversary", but has instead, brought light to the fact that he is very well suited to the "Percy" sort of role.

## PEOPLE

David Simpson is a natural except when he reddens. As Ricard, Cyrenne's brother, he plays his part flawlessly, and is a valuable asset to the Players.

"Rattle of a Simple Man" is a story which was intended as a comical, pathos-ridden play going into the lives of two completely different people; a prostitute and a shy man of 42, yet relating the loneliness and lives of the two.

Bouquets to the Garrison Players for an entertaining evening out at the theatre.

"Rattle of a Simple Man" will also be taken out to Sekkong Army Camp on Sunday, for the benefit of those stationed there, but unlike previous productions, the play will not be staged on Saturday.

It will be on tonight and tomorrow night at the City Hall Theatre at 8.30 p.m., and tickets may be obtained from the Harry Odell Showbox, or at the City Hall Booking counter after 6 p.m. - R.D.



● Erica and Mike in a scene of 'Rattle of a Simple Man'.

# GARRISON PLAYERS

S.C.N.P.

20-2-70

PRESENT

## RATTLE OF A SIMPLE MAN

A COMEDY

PRODUCED BY GEOFFREY EDEN

City Hall Theatre

Last Night Tonight 8.30 p.m.

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT SHOWBOX AND  
CITY HALL BOOKING OFFICE (Evening)

**GIVE YOUR HUSBAND A**  
Treat. Let him spend an  
evening with Cyrenne. Wives  
are welcome too though at  
Rattle Of A Simple Man.  
Opening next Tuesday. City  
Hall Theatre. Tickets at  
Harry Odell's Showbox,  
Alexandra Arcade.