

## THE AUTHORS AND THEIR PLAYS

Charles Vildrac was born in 1882. He started writing for the French theatre during the years following the Great War, when there was a reaction against the false theatricalism of Scribe and Sardou and the materialistic naturalism of Zola and other dramatists of the early years of the century. It was a time when there was a strong idealist and poetic movement in the French drama: in particular a group, of whom Jean-Jacques Bernard was the most notable, explored the dramatic possibilities of silence and of the undertones of dialogue, and produced what is often known as the Drama of the Unspoken. Vildrac's plays, though less subtle and less concerned with complex and repressed emotion than Bernard's, have some affinity with the Drama of the Unspoken.

*Le Paquebot Tenacity*, which we are seeing to-night, was written in 1920, and produced in the same year by Jacques Copeau at the Théâtre du Vieux-Colombier. It was later seen in New York in a translation by Sidney Howard. Other works by this author include *Madame Béliard* (1925), *Le Pèlerin* (*The Pilgrim*, 1926), *La Brouille* (*The Estrangement*, 1930), and *L'air du temps* (*The Atmosphere of the Times*, 1938).

Christopher Fry was born in 1907. He hails from Bristol, and has had a varied career in and out of theatre, including acting and producing for different Repertory companies and a spell as a schoolmaster teaching English literature in Surrey. But he was determined to become a dramatist; and his determination has given the modern playgoer some of the most delightful evenings of the last decade. Here is no Drama of the Unspoken: on the contrary, the plays of Fry are the works of a word-fancier, pregnant with verbal dexterity, exuberant with the love of language.

*A Phoenix Too Frequent*, which we see to-night, was first heard in 1946 at the Mercury Theatre when it delighted those who saw it and whetted the appetite for *The Lady's not for Burning* which followed two years later at the Arts. Other plays include *The Boy With a Cart* (1938), *The Tower* (1939), *Thor With Angels* (1948), *The Firstborn* (1948), *Venus Observed* (1950), *A Sleep of Prisoners* (1950) and *The Dark is Light Enough* (1954).

## OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

From February 11th to 15th the Student Group, supplemented from the main acting strength of the club, will present a special programme of four One Act Plays, by Chehov, Cervantes, Eugene Labiche; and the world première of a new work by Edward Percy. In view of the limited run of this attractive selection early booking is strongly advised. **Box Office opens February 6th.**

## NEW THEATRE FUND PERFORMANCE

If you have enjoyed to-night's plays why not come again on the last night of the run and bring a friend with you? On this evening members may obtain two seats for the price of one: one for himself and one for a friend. **The date to remember is January 18th.**

The discussion of "S.S. Tenacity" and "A Phoenix Too Frequent" will take place in the theatre on Thursday, January 19th, at 7.30 p.m. All members and friends welcome.



present

## "S. S. TENACITY"

by

CHARLES VILDRAC

(English Version by Harold Bowen)

which will be followed by

## A PHOENIX TOO FREQUENT

by

CHRISTOPHER FRY

AT THE QUESTORS THEATRE  
MATTOCK LANE, EALING, W. 5  
JANUARY 7TH TO 18TH, 1956

FOURTH PRODUCTION

TWENTY-SEVENTH SEASON

1955-56

PROGRAMME

SIXPENCE

# “S. S. TENACITY”

by

CHARLES VILDRAC

(English Version by Harold Bowen)

Cast :—

Hidoux	...	...	...	...	...	REGINALD HAMLYN
Madame Cordier	...	...	...	...	...	ELLEN KNIGHT
Therese	...	...	...	...	...	GAY SCOTT
Bastien	...	...	...	...	...	JOHN BOUD
Segard	...	...	...	...	...	BERNARD McLAUGHLIN
Sailor	...	...	...	...	...	HARRY IVES
Workmen	...	...	...	...	...	ALAN DRAKE, ROGER FLEMING, PAUL IMBUSCH and GORDON MILLAIS

The action of the play takes place during 1920 in the restaurant of the Hotel Cordier at a French port.

ACT ONE. Midday.

ACT TWO. Scene 1. Evening—a week later.

Scene 2. A few hours later.

ACT THREE. Early morning—a week later.

There will be intervals of two minutes only between the Acts.

The play produced by ... CLIFFORD WEBB

The set designed by ... BILLEE LAURENCE

Costumes designed and made by THERESA HEFFERNAN

*There will be an interval of fifteen minutes between the two productions, during which you may remain in your seats and be served with tea and biscuits, at a fixed charge of 6d., or cross to the Lounge, where coffee and light snacks may also be obtained.*

# A PHOENIX TOO FREQUENT

by

CHRISTOPHER FRY

Cast :—

Dynamene	...	...	...	...	...	DIANA BENN
Doto	...	...	...	...	...	SYLVIA JARVIS
Tegeus	...	...	...	...	...	PATRICK BOWLEY

Scene: The tomb of Virilius, near Ephesus—Night.

The play produced and set designed by ... COLETTE KING

Costumes designed by ... ELISABETH WELLMAN

and made in the wardrobe under the direction of SALLY GREENFIELD

FOR BOTH PRODUCTIONS

Stage Manager ... BERYL OWEN

assisted by FRANCES FOAD, JUDY HALL, MICHAEL VANNER

Sets constructed in the Questors workshops under the direction of

JOHN GOLDRICK

Lighting ... MARTIN CARR

Sound ... STUART HARTLEY and ERIC KIRBY

Properties ... JOSE ROBERTS and DOROTHY BOYD-TAYLOR



Theatre Manager ... RENA RICE

House Manager ... ARCHIE COWAN

Press Representative ... BASIL HULL

BOX OFFICE (6.30—7.30 p.m.) ... EALING 5184

## JUMBLE SALE — 4th FEBRUARY

- A Jumble Sale will be held at the Griffith Davies Memorial Hall in Dane Road (off Mattock Lane) on **Saturday, 4th February, at 2.30 p.m.**
- Articles for sale will be welcomed, and should be brought to the Theatre during the week commencing 30th January.
- If items are to be collected, please notify the organisers, Miss Mary Hardwick or Mrs. Pickford, at the Theatre before 30th January.

COME ALONG AND BUY BARGAINS IN AID OF THE  
NEW THEATRE

MEMBERS ARE RESPECTFULLY REMINDED THAT SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE THEATRE WHILE THE PLAY IS IN PROGRESS.