

11 October 1964

A L T H E I M

by Don Roberts.

The action takes place in the castle of Geusse-Lechfeld, a small Catholic country, at present occupied by Protestant Mercenaries. It is 1635 - the middle of the Thirty Years War - a war which was the culmination of 100 years of religious fighting between Lutherans and Calvinists, Catholics and Protestants. Mercenaries are being used to a far greater degree than at any other period of history. The commanders of the armies, who undertook to supply troops and supplies in exchange for large sums of money, are quite prepared to accept a higher bid, and therefore are always under surveillance from their paymasters.

When the Lutheran movement gained momentum in the early sixteenth century, it seemed to offer a new bond of unity to the German people, but it became a new cause for division. Each sect seemed to take delight in discovering more bloodthirsty activities and it was not uncommon to find Pastor fighting Priest, or a Protestant mob stopping a Catholic funeral in order to tear the corpse to pieces. Religion was the excuse for every sadistic urge conceived by the Human race.

Altheim is the story of personal ambition and lust for power, set against this devastating cruelty, whilst at the same time, it comments on the manner man has used through every age an abstract cause to excuse his actions.

Cast (in order of speaking)

Hanno.....	JAMES HARROP
Andreas.....	JULIAN TAYLOR
Stabius.....	<del>PETER SAINTY</del>
Renata.....	MARY HOLLAND
Pastor Delius.....	PHILIP REMINGTON
Marl Vcn Rothenstein.....	MARTIN BOWLEY
Georg Lochnu.....	MICHAEL LANGRIDGE
Magdalena.....	BETTY PRIEST
Sgt. Neudorf.....	<del>DAVID PEARSON</del>
Maria.....	MARY JONES

*David Pearson*

*John Turner*

Produced by ROGER SAXTON-HOWES

Stage Manager.....	JUDITH WATSON
Lighting.....	BOB ANDERSON
Sound.....	DAVID EDWARDS

After the reading there will be a  
DISCUSSION  
of the play led by Alfred  
Emmet.