

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY THEATRE GUILD

**THE
UNKNOWN WARRIOR**

by
PAUL RAYNAL

AT THE HUT
25th NOVEMBER, 26th NOVEMBER, and
27th NOVEMBER,
8 p.m.

POSTPONEMENT OF "GHOSTS"

The Guild very much regrets that casting difficulties made it impossible to produce Ibsen's GHOSTS which was announced as the final play of the 1952 season. It hopes that it may be possible to do GHOSTS in the course of the 1953 season.

A NOTE ON "THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR"

After the Great War of 1914-1918, an unknown soldier of the French Army was buried beneath the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, just as in Westminster Abbey lies an unknown soldier of the British Army. This symbol of national devotion and sacrifice has not lost its meaning in spite of the ironical advent of the second War To End War; rather it has been given a wider significance. It has come to typify the capacity for heroism which exists in the whole human race beneath such mountains of futility and selfishness.

Paul Raynal's play was originally produced at the Comedie-Francaise in 1924 under the title "Le Tombeau sous l'Arc de Triomphe."

Each of the three characters represents eternal types; the Warrior, not only of the 1914-1918 war, but of all wars; the Girl who loves him and sees him go; the Father, the old man, the non-combatant, the one whose lot it is to stay behind. Not all fathers, not all fiances, and certainly not all soldiers are the Father, the Aude and the Soldier in this play; but something of their emotions and experiences is common to all human beings in their tragic situation.

Raynal has constructed some of the scenes of his play out of the feelings and impulses which in the ordinary course of existence are safely submerged, perhaps unsuspected. But they are there, liable to be thrown to the surface, sometimes with appalling results, when a storm of more than ordinary intensity stirs the depths.

Given the bitter exigencies of the situation, the anger which flares out between the Soldier and the Father in the last Act rings true, however heightened and sharpened by the fact that we are in the Theatre. The Drama must deal with drama; there is neither time nor room for the half-hints and intimations possible in other arts.

One last word. The "Unknown Warrior" is a tragedy, but it ends on a note of Hope. Man is greater than the material circumstances which decide his life and death.

The Unknown Warrior

A DRAMA IN THREE ACTS

by PAUL RAYNAL

*in a version prepared by The University
Theatre Guild*

CAST

THE SOLDIER - - BRIAN SMITH
AUDE - - - FLEUR HAMILTON
THE FATHER - - - ROY LEANEY

Produced by

THELMA BAULDERSTONE

The action of the play takes place in France
at the house of a small landowner.

Time: October, 1915.