

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY THEATRE GUILD



The Circle

By

W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM



AT THE HUT

20th JULY, 22nd JULY, 23rd JULY, and 24th JULY, 1954.

THE AUTHOR AND THE COMEDY

William Somerset Maugham, our author, is 80 years old this year. He wrote his first full-length play in 1898 and his last in 1933, announcing then that he had finished with the drama. In his autobiographical "The Summing Up" he gives his reasons in several most informative and characteristic pages which impart the candid opinions of a veteran saying farewell to the theatre while still in full possession of all his powers.

The prose play is scarcely less ephemeral than a newspaper. Those are Mr. Maugham's own words. Generally speaking, it does seem to be true, certainly it is of most of Mr. Maugham's own plays; but the consensus of opinion at present is with J. C. Trewin that *THE CIRCLE* "should endure with the major high comedies of the English Theatre. This comedy will keep Maugham's name in the records."

If this is so, then *THE CIRCLE* must be a classic in spite of the first production having occurred only 33 not 150 years ago.

But a play which has become a classic is a challenge to the playgoers as well as to the players. Tragedy and buffoonery are for all; comedy for the civilized man. It makes demands. High comedy does not set out to obtain easy laughter, but the smile of intelligent appreciation of wit and the underlying ironies of our social life.



AUSTRALIAN ELIZABETHAN THEATRE TRUST

The Guild wishes to commend to its members the move to establish an Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust, the aim of which will be to assist the development of the drama, opera and ballet in this country as a national memorial to commemorate the visit of Her Majesty the Queen.

The operation of the Trust will be Australia-wide, and a Fund is being raised to further its work. Donations may be sent to the Secretary, Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust, Lord Mayor's Room, Town Hall, Adelaide, from whom further information may be obtained.

All donations to this Fund will be allowable deductions for income tax purposes.

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CAST

ARNOLD CHAMPION-CHENEY, M.P. - KEITH BUCKLEY
BUTLER - - - - - KEVIN MANSER
MRS. SHENSTONE - - - - - PEG JONES
ELIZABETH - - - - - AUDRIE MARTLEW
EDWARD LUTON - - - - - TERENCE McDERMOTT
CLIVE CHAMPION-CHENEY - - - - - ROY LEANEY
LADY CATHERINE CHAMPION-CHENEY - - -
SYLVIA BLAKEWAY
LORD PORTEOUS - - - - - GEORGE ANDERSON

Produced by

JOHN RAGGATT



*The action of the play takes place at Aston-Adey, Arnold
Champion-Cheney's house in Dorset.*

ACT I—A fine summer morning.

Interval

ACT II—Afternoon, a few days later.

Interval

ACT III—That evening.



Set devised by MICHAEL JAMES

Stage Manager — DAVID CALDWELL

Lighting — IAN McLAUHLAN

The Guild wishes to thank JOHN MARTIN & CO. LTD. and PERIOD
AND ART FURNISHERS for the loan of furniture; also the MYER
EMPORIUM (S.A.) LTD. for the loan of lamps.

NEXT PRODUCTION

The Guild's **FOURTH** play this year will be *CRADLE SONG* by G. Martinez Sierra — a Spanish play, strong, tender and deeply touching, in vivid contrast with the Guild's earlier plays of the season. It will be produced by Barbara Howard.

Circumstances have made it necessary to postpone Alex Symons' "We Can't Do Without Them."

FIFTH play will be the *ALCESTIS* of Euripides, to be produced by Brian Coghlan in October.



MEMBERSHIP OF UNIVERSITY THEATRE GUILD

The Theatre Guild is a private theatre and admission to all performances at the Hut is by presentation of the Membership Vouchers at the door for **unreserved seats**, or by exchanging vouchers at Allan's Ltd. Box Office for **reserved seats**.

The Guild is precluded from selling seats at the door of The Hut, or elsewhere, to non-members. This is not due to any rule of the Guild, but to circumstances quite beyond its control.



SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR BALANCE OF 1954 SEASON

	s.	d.
Single Membership (pro rata) - - -	8	6
entitling member to one seat for each of two remaining productions.		
Double Membership (pro rata) - - -	14	0
entitling member to two seats for each of two remaining productions.		
Undergraduate Membership - - -	4	6
one seat for each production.		

The Guild particularly requests that Single and Double **Ordinary** Subscriptions be paid at Allan's Ltd. Box Office, Rundle St., Adelaide; but they may be paid at The Hut on the night of a performance and the voucher, or vouchers, can then be presented for an unbooked seat or seats.

Undergraduate Subscriptions must be paid to Miss D. M. Pearce, Hon. Secretary to the Guild, Arts and Mathematics Building, University.