

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY THEATRE GUILD



*Christmas*  
*in the*  
*Market Place*

By

HENRI GHEON



UNIVERSITY UNION CLOISTERS

6th DECEMBER, 7th DECEMBER, and 8th DECEMBER, 1955.

# Christmas in the Market Place

By HENRI GHEON

Adapted into English by ERIC CROZIER

## CHARACTERS

A band of strolling players, of gypsy extraction, consisting of:

OLD MELCHIOR, who plays . . . .

*The Reader, The Angel appearing to the Shepherds, King Melchior the Magus, Herod, Old Simeon, A Doctor*

. . . . ALEXANDER HAY

OLD COLOMBA, who plays . . . .

*The Old Woman who expected the Messiah, The Neighbour who didn't expect Him, Elizabeth, A Roman Lady, A Farmer's Wife, Anna the Prophetess*

. . . . PAT MERRITT

JOEY, their son, who plays . . . .

*A Jew of the Advent, Joseph, A Doctor*

. . . . GORDON TROUP

MARIA, their daughter-in-law, who plays

*Mary*

. . . . JUDITH BARROWCLIFFE

BRUNO, their grandson, who plays . . . .

*The Angel of the Annunciation and the Visitation, A Young Shepherd, The Child Jesus*

. . . . BARRY PREE

And a whole pack of children, but we see only one, who is JESUS  
in the cradle, in the shape of a doll.

Lastly, the Ass, but he is only heard braying.



SCENE: The players' camp in a village market place.



The Play is produced by  
KEITH W. THOMSON

Stage arrangements by PHILIP FARGHER

Lighting — R. BEEBY and JOHN SMITH

Costume Supervisor — LOUISA SCORER

Producers' Assistants — LOLA BARRITT and BARBARA WEST

Music by a Section of the UNIVERSITY BACH CHOIR under  
the direction of J. V. PETERS



A family of strolling gypsy players, sitting around their fire in the market place of a country town on Christmas Eve, decide to stage an improvised Christmas entertainment for anyone who cares to watch. The five of them — Grandfather, Grandmother, Son and Daughter, and Grandson — play their own simple version of the Nativity story, each changing character as often as the story demands.



Henri Ghéon (1875-1943) was leader of a revival of religious drama in France. His plays, though written after those of Claudel, were mostly performed before them. Among the many works which he produced, the best-known outside France is *Le Noël sur la place*, which was originally played in 1935 by Les Compagnons de Jeux, a semi-amateur company. Eric Crozier's English version was produced in London in 1943 by E. Martin Browne, who played the part of "Joey."

The Guild is grateful to the University Union for permission to use the Cloisters and to the Registrar of the University for considerable assistance in connection with this production. It also wishes to thank the University Dramatic Society for the loan of the platform stage and technical equipment, and the University Footlights Club for its kind co-operation as regards use of the Hut and theatre equipment.

The Guild also wishes to thank Mr. John Olday for his poster design.

Proceeds of the three performances are to be given by the Guild to the University Building Appeal.



With its Christmas Play, the fifth production of the year, the Adelaide University Theatre Guild's programme for 1955 is concluded. Other productions in 1955 were *QUEEN'S CONSORT*, *BELIEVE IT OR NOT*, *THE LIVING ROOM*, and an evening of short plays, among which were *RED QUEEN-WHITE QUEEN*, *THE STRONGER*, and *THE WORKHOUSE WARD*.



Members will be informed by circular of the date of the Annual Meeting of the Guild and of the programme of plays proposed for 1956.