

HIDE OUT Drama for our times

Hide Out opened at the Westminster Theatre last Friday, March 7. *The Times* described the play as a 'well planned shot at the sort of theatrical effectiveness which remains effective however fashions change'.

The audience, at times gripped in complete silence and at others bursting with laughter, bore out this view with their enthusiastic applause. 'We felt as though we were right inside the play,' was one comment afterwards.

Many stayed on and packed the restaurant for the reception after the performance. It was midnight before the last guests left.

On the nub for industry

GEORGE WALKER, Editor of *The Waterfront and Industrial Pioneer*, described *Hide Out* as a play that is 'absolutely on the nub for industry in this country at the moment.' He was speaking in London last Sunday.

'Some people get rather fed up with the workers because they keep having disastrous strikes,' he said, 'but in fact one of the things in their spirits is they want to be free. They do not like being organized too far.'

'They want to have some little bit of liberty left in which they can decide—whether it be deciding how the thing is run, or whether it be deciding whether or not they will work today, or how fast they will work and a lot of other things which the human spirit



Victor Lucas as the Politician, Mary Jones as his wife and Philip Friend as Max, the artist, react to the news of the bid to take over their country.

craves for. And it craves for them very hard if in fact you are not aiming at any particular target that is very worthwhile. This is happening all the time and it is all in the play.

'You see in the play the scientific idea of how to organize and control people. People begin to say that it is the only way. People talk about running this country that way.'

'Already in industry you have scientific management who in fact often operate that way. Now that doesn't mean that you cannot be scientifically and properly trained for management today, but if you have the one kind of training without the thing which Thornhill talks about in his play, the spark of God and the human spirit, ultimately it is not going to work.'

'This show is for anybody in industry, whether they be management, or worker or these technicians, the men with the white collars you hear a lot about, who are now becoming very powerful. It is absolutely on the button.'

Eye-opener

Rosemary Phelps, member of the cast of *'Anything to Declare?'* writes:

WE CALL OURSELVES a revolutionary generation. Some of us gaily

throw around philosophies about violence and freedom by men with complicated names. Many are sincere but have no intention of continuing to campaign for truth, as they see it, through middle age and beyond. Revolutionary activity has become a phase and a prerogative of youth.

However, life has more to it. We will never achieve the conditions we all want to see in the world immediately or cheaply. *Hide Out* is an eye-opener.

Important moment

One of the most important moments of the play is when the politician and his son leave their different 'hide outs' in life and face each other honestly. It gives a glimpse of the simple solution to the problem of the age gap and all other human 'gaps'. This generation is not so different from the last and unless people change in themselves, we are just as likely to make the same mistakes.

Hide Out is a warning—for those who hardly appreciate freedom or understand dictatorship and for those who do. This play will help many of my age group to grasp how precious our freedom is and the permanent change in our own way of living it will take to preserve it for ourselves and for others.

Turning enemies into friends

KALPANA SHARMA, aged twenty-one, comes from Bombay and has worked with Moral Re-Armament in many parts of India for the last four years. She helped produce and took a leading part in the musical 'India Arise', which travelled through Europe and the Middle East two years ago. She writes:

IN ASIA in the last weeks, the turmoil in Pakistan has drawn the attention of the world. President Ayub Khan has decided to step down. There have been demonstrations, riots and killing.

The wars in Vietnam and Nigeria continue, and no solution is appearing on the horizon.

In our own country there have been many shocks and strains. The city of Bombay, reputed for its peace-loving people, was shaken by the worst riots in years. More people were killed in three days in Bombay than in three weeks of rioting in Pakistan.

The results of the mid-term elections in different states of India also came as a surprise to many. In the state of West Bengal the Communists have come in with an overwhelming majority. In all the other states the Congress Party, which is the majority

party, made an apology on the part of one of them to the other two, broke barriers built over years. This is a habit too few politicians indulge in.

These men have now gone back with the determination of bringing unity between other hill leaders and between the leaders of opposing parties.

A delegation of young Mizos attended the conference. The Mizos comprise one of the hill tribes of Assam. For some years now guerilla warfare has been raging in the Mizo hills. The Mizos want complete independence from India and so many have joined the underground Mizo National Front which has been fighting against the Indian Army.

One of the Mizo delegation was Mrs Muankimi Khiangte, a teacher whose father is the President of the Eastern Tribal Union and one of the

done so much and the Assamese would have understood our plight.'

The Garos are another hill tribe from Assam. They were represented by three executive members of their District Council. One of them, Grahon Singh Marak, described how he had stirred up hatred against the non-Garos to get support from his own people. 'I have decided to stop this and fight to bring integration between Garos, non Garos and the plains people of Assam,' he announced.

The relationship between India and Ceylon has not been exactly smooth. A lot of feelings have come up on both sides on the question of the resettlement of Indians living in Ceylon. Yet a powerful delegation from Ceylon participated in the conference.

Amongst them were Tamils and Sinhalese, the two warring communities of Ceylon. Percy Eheliyagoda, a



B B Lyngdoh,
Chairman of
the Khasi
Hills Branch
of the All
Parties Hill
Leaders
Conference



**Percy
Eheliyagoda,**
Assistant
Secretary of
the Sri Lanka
Trade Unions,
Ceylon
photos Leggat



SIRR Makwenanai from Southern Sudan
with **Ato Mesfun Hailu** from Ethiopia

party of the Central Government, has had great losses.

Amongst all this confusion one ray of hope is the news of the conference at Asia Plateau, Panchgani, with the theme 'Turning Enemies into Friends'.

Perhaps most significant was the reconciliation of three leaders from the hill areas of Assam. These men have been fighting for ten years to get a separate state for their tribal people who live in the hills of Assam. There was deep division between them because of jealousy and rivalry. A sim-

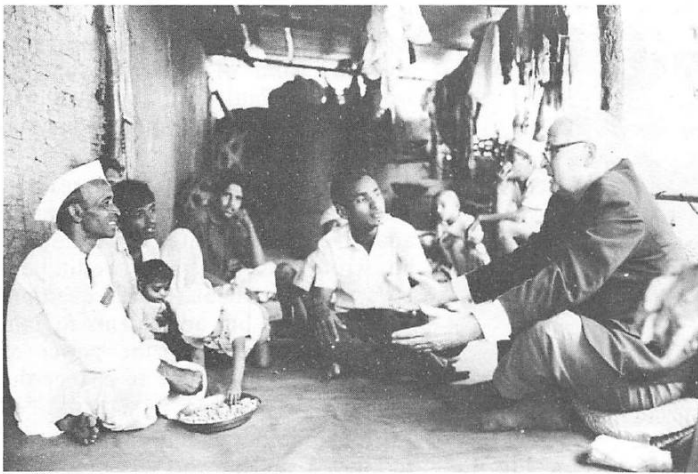
most respected Mizos. He came to Panchgani last year and found an answer to bitterness.

Mrs Khiangte said of her time at Panchgani, 'I have always thought of myself as Mizo, but after meeting Moral Re-Armament I have learnt to call myself an Indian. We thought India had neglected us when we did not get our Hill State. Disillusioned, many Mizos went underground in 1964 and fighting began. We thought that the plains people of Assam were rulers, but if we had put right our hatred towards them we could have

Sinhalese, is the Assistant Secretary of the 300,000 strong Sri Lanka Trade Unions affiliated to Mrs S Bandaranaike's party. He saw the industrial drama *The Forgotten Factor* in Colombo just after he returned from Moscow.

At Panchgani he spoke of the many disastrous strikes that have occurred in Ceylon in the last years and said, 'Destruction is the end result of refusing to negotiate. I am going back to fight for negotiations on the basis of what is right and not who is right.'

Africa is also a continent in turmoil.



Henrik Schaefer, President of the Caux Foundation, in the home of Maruthi Ghole, headman of Mahu Village
photos Leggat

Yet at this conference we have had representatives from five African nations. Sirr Makwenanai, from Southern Sudan declared, 'The most reactionary men in the world are the ones who shout for peace, unity and brotherhood but yet continue their policies of class struggle, race or partisan ideas. We need fearless men and women who will challenge us in Africa to a revolutionary concept that will dislodge hate and bitterness from our hearts and replace it with compassion, care and obedience to God.'

Asians and Indians in Africa have not lived in a way that they are welcome there. In the last months many of them have been forced to leave their businesses in East Africa and return to either India or Britain.

In the light of that the invitation from Mr Ato Mesfun Hailu, representing the committee for Moral Re-Armament in Eritrea, for a force of Indians to go to his country, is historic. An invitation was also given to the industrial drama *The Forgotten Factor* which, with an Indo-Ceylonese cast, has been around India and Ceylon in the last months.

This invitation represents two Asian nations together taking on to think and care for the needs of another continent.

'Revolutionary industrialists' from Europe have come out to India to share what they have learnt through the application of MRA in industry with their Indian counterparts. Alfred Nielsen, the Vice President of the Employers of the Wood Industry of Denmark, described how he, as an Executive Member of the European Confederation of Woodwork Industries, had been one of those respon-

sible for setting up a special Wood Committee in the Confederation.

This Committee will stabilise prices of wood from Asia and Africa and will also explore how more wood can be bought from the Afro-Asian countries. 'I want to see that your resources of wood and manpower are used in such a way that is best for your countries,' Nielsen said.

The students—another popular subject for discussion—were well represented. A group of them, from Bombay University, announced the next conference which will be held in May in Panchgani, specially for students. 'We are not interested in just answering student problems at this conference,' they said. 'We are interested in training students to answer world problems.'

An important factor in all these events were the decisions of very ordinary people. For instance, a Malaysian Indian student studying medicine in Calcutta University announced that she had decided to clean up her life and put things right with her family. Later a hill leader, while speaking from the platform and apologizing to his colleagues, said that this girl's decision had turned the key in his heart.

All this has happened in two weeks through two buildings which cost only Rs. 30 lakhs (£167,000). This is hardly anything compared to what is spent in one day in the Vietnam war or what is spent just on alcohol, drugs and cigarettes in some nations.

It is a dazzling array of miracles which gives hope for the future. But these miracles need not be limited to these buildings. Every home, school, factory, office and university could be a workshop and a factory for turning



Rajmohan Gandhi (left) with N G Goray, Chairman of the Praja Socialist Party

out miracles on two legs who will step out and transform this old world of ours.

Westminster Theatre

A conference for
Clergy, Ministers and
Christian workers

Wednesday 19 March at 11am

GARTH LEAN
will speak on
**Christian
Counter-Attack**

in the chair
Kenneth Belden MA

Who dares wins

BRIAN BOOBYER, former Rugby International and Oxford Rugby and Cricket Blue, gave the following address at Hertford College Chapel, Oxford on Sunday, 2 March.

There is a motto of a famous regiment: 'Who dares wins'.

It is not a bad motto for life.

It is certainly true of any game.

Nothing is more depressing to watch than the team that goes on to the field to avoid losing—or more deadly than the fly-half who kicks for touch or kicks ahead all the time.

One of the signs of my gathering years is how critical I get when I watch a match. I get better every year!

But I will say that the England versus France game two weeks ago was one of the finest games you could wish to see. Even my son, who is five, sat completely still for 90 minutes—for the first time in his life!

What is true in a game is true of life. 'Who dares wins'.

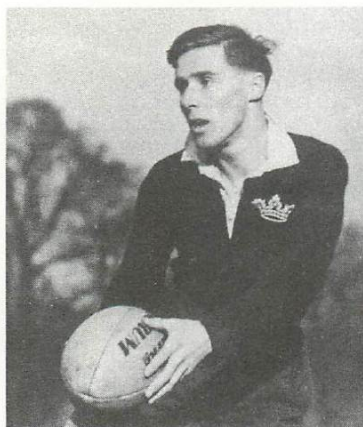
Christ understood people. He wrote no one off. But if there is one person that he found specially difficult it was the man who risked nothing, wrapped his life in cotton wool, who buried his talent in the ground.

He made no excuses for him.

Christ had unlimited compassion, but also unlimited expectation. To a man who refuses to use what God has given him he does not say 'Tut, Tut'. He says, 'You're a wicked and lazy man. Your place is outer darkness. There you will have time to think things over.'

Thoroughly pleasant

Some years ago I made an experiment. I gave my life to God, and I decided to get up early each morning for God's direction, not only in how to live but how to bring His revolution to the world.



I did not do that because life was difficult. It was not. It was thoroughly pleasant. It was cricket, rugby, history and no hardship. I did it because I wanted to be able to help people and because I believed that nations as well as people could be reborn.

That experiment has taken me to 30 countries, including six years in the Far East. Everywhere human nature is the same, the same fears, the same moral compromises which submerge the talents that the world needs.

There is an art which people seldom talk about. It is the most difficult art in the world. It is God's art. It is the art of talking to another man and setting him on a new course in life. It could happen at dinner. It could even happen at breakfast.

My wife and I had dinner the other night with a couple from Prague. Like so many from their country their future is very uncertain. She said, 'I don't believe in God, but I'd like to for the sake of my children.' He said, 'When the invasion took place, I had to find a new motive for my life, more than my profession, whatever that is. I had to find a mission.' They are considering making an experiment with God—a God they do not believe in but hope is there. They know what it is going to cost.

I met a student from another country and got to know him well. Then for a time I didn't see much of him. Christmas came, and I sent him a book. It was a short book on the life of St Paul called *A story of effective statesmanship*.

I heard nothing from him for a few weeks. Then came a phone call. 'When can I see you?' We had tea that afternoon at the Cadena. He said, 'Why

did you send me that book?' I said, 'because I believe you are meant to give the kind of leadership in the world that Paul did, and you will never do that while you're going up the ladder.'

He said, 'I read it and re-read it. Then I decided to take off my mask and give God my life.' Then he said he wrote two letters of restitution. He's facing particularly this question, 'Do I use my life and talents to gain power, or do I obey the power of God to let Him use me to change the world?'

From another country I have got to know a student who, as a freshman, was clearly a man of faith and conviction. Then each time I met him his faith was growing less and less. Now, he says he does not know.

His problems are not theological or intellectual. They are moral. You cannot indulge impurity and keep your faith alive. St. Paul said, 'You cannot commit impurity without cheating your fellow men.'

Buried talent

Moral compromise buries the talents in people and the statesmanship.

In what I said about the Parable of the Talents I concentrated on the third man, who buried his talent in the ground because he was afraid. I did it deliberately because fear is such a force, fear of what others think, fear of failure, the fear that keeps us small and silent, and then soon, because we know we are not the people we could be, the fear that makes a nation like Britain short of leadership, despite being full of first rate people.

Churchill talked about, 'the rut of inertia, the confusion of aim and the craven fear of being great.'

The answer to fear begins with absolute honesty. 'The truth shall make you free' is not just the motto of the *Daily Express*. It is the beginning of a charter of life, laid down by Christ.

The devil and the light cannot co-exist.

St John said, 'If we live in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin.'

That experience is always available.