

You may now subscribe to the 'MRA Information Service' for 26 shillings per half-year (35s. airmail). The yearly rate remains at 50s. (65s. airmail).

'Happy Deathday' world premiere run begins

'Fresh wind in fetid atmosphere of half-truths'

STUDENT LEADERS—presidents and officials of student unions and editors of student papers—from over 100 colleges round London, and the heads of 12 national associations of overseas students, attended the opening performances of *Happy Deathday* in London during the last week.

To the world premiere on 5 February of the colour film based on Peter Howard's last play came scientists, sportsmen, film company directors, ambassadors from Asian, African and Arab countries. Present also in the Westminster Theatre were the Chairman of the Representative Council of London University's 30,000 students, the Chairman of the University's Catholic students and the President of the students of London School of Economics. The Sierra Leone High Commissioner brought a party of students the following night.

Laughter rippled through the premiere audience. Absorbed, they watched the hates and hopes of Josh Swinyard and his family depicted on the screen—wealthy grandfather with a faith, scientist son-in-law without one and grand-daughter torn between the two. 'Magnificent', commented a London University chaplain afterwards. An internationally-known sportsman called it 'a trumpet' to bring down the walls of Jericho. A diplomat said, 'It was like a fresh wind in a fetid atmosphere'. Many people commented on the performances of the cast, particularly the principals, Cyril Luckham, Clement McCallin and Yvonne Antrobus, and on the skilled direction of Henry Cass that brings out every shade of meaning in Howard's dialogue.

As *Happy Deathday* began its London run, evidence mounted from four conti-

nents of demand for the truths the film conveys, and the type of entertainment it represents. In Asia, an executive responsible for a major film company's distribution in Ceylon and India, said this was what the industry was looking for. A leading cinema chain in Ethiopia asked to run the film. In Switzerland, *Luzerner Tagblatt*, liberal newspaper of Lucerne, commented on a showing for an invited audience, 'The full house proves the interest which Moral Re-Armament meets.'

In Vienna, Chancellor Josef Klaus and three of the Austrian Cabinet took time in the midst of a national election campaign to see *Happy Deathday*. New Zealand's Justice Minister said it should be shown throughout the country's universities. In Australia, the Federal Minister of Education and Science saw the film and headmasters and church leaders asked for showings. In Kuala Lumpur, Education Ministry officials screened it for youth organisers and students of the University of Malaysia.

Everywhere, audiences at private previews echoed the Swiss student who declared, 'This is exactly about the problems youth are most interested in today,' or the one in Port Moresby, Papua-New Guinea, who said, 'You feel you are part of this film.'

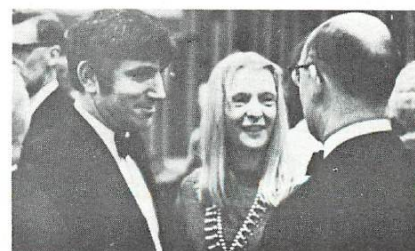
Also at the London premiere were many of the doctors and scientists whose initiative, two years ago, led to the raising of the £45,000 required to make the film. As Dr Bryan Hamlin, microbiologist and secretary of the fund-raising committee then stated, 'There is need to ensure that scientists and laymen understand the challenges technology is putting before us, and are in a morally-fit state to make the right decisions. *Happy Deathday* is a weapon to do this.'



Government officials of the Kenyan Ministry of Lands, visiting Britain, talk with Henry Cass, the director *photos Strong*



Paul Petrocokino, who loaned his home of Astonbury for the filming, with Rear Admiral Sir Edward Cochrane



Professor and Mrs J Edelman of London University speak with the manager of the Westminster Theatre



445 students representing 103 colleges came to performances in the opening week *photos Hartnell*



What 'Happy Deathday' has to say

LIKE A FRESH WIND

By a diplomat

OCCASIONALLY, very occasionally, something happens that makes one realise how much of the time we live in an atmosphere of half truths—the clamour about the Tories' record or Labour's, the pill or the population explosion, trade unions and management, Biafra and Nigeria, Arabs and Israel. The high priests are TV commentators and our bible the gossip writers.

Seeing *Happy Deathday* the other night for the first time, was a sudden, exhilarating reminder of how much we need the deeper notes of truth. It was like a fresh wind in a fetid atmosphere.

I recalled the Communist official in East Europe who returned from a visit to London, saying, 'How can I meet Peter Howard? His play *Happy Deathday* tackles the very problems worrying us in the Party today.'

Once again I felt grateful for Peter Howard's courage in giving the undiluted truth, as he saw it, to our generation. His concern was never whether his plays would be popular, but whether they would be effective. *Happy Deathday* proves that they can be both. The first night audience, sophisticated and diversified, was absolutely gripped. One of them said to me, 'I not only liked it. I lived in it.'

Of how many films showing in Britain today can one say that?

MUST GO TO EVERY UNIVERSITY

I LIVE IN LONDONDERRY where in the past months we have had the worst rioting this country has known. Homes and factories were burned. Derry has the highest unemployment rate in Britain.

It is significant that the troubles in my city were started by many of the youth.

In *Happy Deathday*, when Jetta says, 'You have nothing big enough, swift enough or free enough for me,' I believe she echoes what many of the youth feel. Every man needs a purpose big enough to give meaning to his whole life. The film has brought a ray of hope that there is an answer to the diseases of bitterness, impurity and greed. That it challenges, is beyond doubt.

One man said, 'It has given me a new dimension on what the real needs of people are.' Another, a student, said,

FIVE YOUNG PEOPLE have already committed suicide by fire in France. Why? Drugs and sex seem to be the only things in our modern world attracting young people in search of a more satisfying life.

In *Happy Deathday*, the grandfather speaking of his love for his granddaughter says, 'It was never strong enough, pure enough, swift enough for her.' Have we anything better? If we feel responsible for the society of 1980, we must commit ourselves to spread an answer. For my part, I believe that the film *Happy Deathday* is a valuable weapon.

CLAIRE MUTHWILL, *Paris University*

DEALS WITH RACE, SEX AND GENERATION GAP

I NEVER SAW *Happy Deathday* as a play and when I saw it for the first time as a film, I was stunned. Its deep and yet unavoidable truth came home to me. It dealt with so many of the things which really puzzled me—such as race, sex and the generation gap. I saw in the characters in the film so much of myself, the same hopes and the same fears.

I decided to have it shown in my school. The chaplain came to see it and his immediate reaction was, 'That is a film and a half!' The following term it was shown in my school.

I believe that this film should be shown in every school in the country. It should be part of everybody's education. I believe that men and women, young and old, living by the four absolute moral standards of honesty, purity, love and unselfishness can shape the destiny of Britain and the whole world. *Happy Deathday* has a large part to play.

EDWARD PETERS

'I do not believe in God. I have no sympathy for Moral Re-Armament. But I have seen a film tonight that shows such a depth of understanding of human nature and such an authentic presentation of the tensions between different factors that it is unsurpassed.'

UNIVERSITY DOCTOR

'There is something more in it each time I see it. Human nature can and must change.'

I believe this film is meant to be shown in every university in Ireland and Great Britain.

ALEC MCRITCHIE

SMUGGLED RUPEES RESTORED

from our correspondent in Bombay

'IF you'll excuse me there's something I have to do.' A chemistry student has just seen a private showing of *Happy Deathday* in Bombay. He returned to his hostel and wrote two letters.

One informed the customs officials that he had bribed an official to help him smuggle one thousand rupees of 'black' money from his home country, Kenya, into India. He also mentioned an undeclared gold chain, and some taxable trousers. 'I am ready to pay whatever penalty you think fit. I want to clean my hands so that I can ask my country's leaders to deal honestly.' When he was later questioned he refused to name the customs officer who had turned a blind eye. 'I am here to put right my mistakes, not to make trouble for others.'

The second letter went to his father in Nairobi asking him not to send the 4,000 'black' rupees he had promised. Because of this letter, his father decided to pay his own taxes in full and later paid his son's 5,000 rupees customs fine.

at a glance

From an article in the 'Neue Zürcher Zeitung' on 8 February:

REPRESENTATIVES of MRA in India made a significant contribution during the political reorganisation of North East India. It is partly due to their influence that now, after long and bitter disputes and with the approval of the State of Assam, the new State of Meghalaya is to be created in the next months for the hills people of this region.

KHAN ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN, one of the last survivors of Mahatma Gandhi's inner circle of freedom fighters, last week received members of the MRA international force presently in Delhi.

In October last year, Ghaffar Khan, known as the 'Frontier Gandhi' jolted the conscience of India by refusing to be used in the politicking in the nation's capital. *The Times* reported that he 'electrified millions of Indians and perhaps embarrassed Delhi's hard-boiled politicians.'

Gulzarilal Nanda, MP, former Home Minister and now President of the Indian National Trade Union Congress, attended a performance of the European musical revue *Anything to Declare?*

Magic of Panchgani

by Louis Fleming

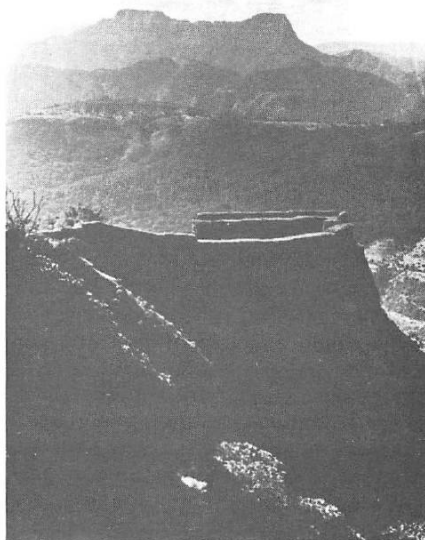


photo Channer

I AM AT THIS MOMENT perched on top of the sun-drenched tablelands of south-west India, gazing out upon one of the finest panoramic views of valleys, mountains and dykes I have ever seen from a bedroom window! Here at 'Asia Plateau', Panchgani, 4,500 ft above sea level, is fast rising the very impressive and extensive Asian Conference Centre for Moral Re-Armament.

Here on the outskirts of a holiday village lies the site of a courageous saga of which India can be justly proud, and which we from Europe might humbly salute. Moral Re-Armament means God's spirit triumphing over man's weaknesses. Human hearts changed; family, racial, industrial conflicts solved; economies balanced; honest politics, and an end to corruption; absolute moral standards to live by.

Mr Rajmohan Gandhi, Mr R D Mathur, and the people of India who believe that this is the only answer for India's and Asia's vast and pressing problems, have undertaken to create this centre. Their conquering spirit and faith has to be seen to be believed. Considering the many obstacles to be overcome, what they have achieved is fantastic. God and man, assisted by money and water, have created here on what was once cheap, barren waste-land a modern miracle of construction.

'Asia Plateau' rests snugly a few hundred feet below the solid grey rockface of arid table-land. This natural protecting wall runs for perhaps two miles, and because of its dominating strength tends to dwarf the buildings below. Panther, hyena and wildcat still roam these hills nearby, but are seldom seen by visitors who can enjoy long walks unmolested. As night falls the air comes alive with the sound of crickets singing in unison, echoed against the rockface. Fortunately, there are few mosquitoes to add to the music of the night! This is a malaria-free area.

One enters the property from the main road passing through imposing decorative iron gates and rows of flags. Wide paved roads with modern street lights lead up to two large three-storey residential buildings which have so far been completed. They are very substantial, earthquake-resistant, and provide every amenity for two hundred and fifty guests.

One is very impressed by the standard of construction here. Things like the steel door frames, steel windows with brass fittings, solid electrical outlets, and the tiled floors. The finish is excellent, too, by European standards if one wishes to compare. These buildings were practically built 'by hand' by the superb craftsmen of Maharashtra. No major construction machinery was used. In this way work was provided for people, for whole families, and building costs were reduced. At the same time construction went ahead at the same pace. I am told that in place of dump trucks some one hundred and fifty donkeys removed the earth for the foundations.

One should mention that the Australian architect has been giving his services, and that the consulting engineers in Bombay have been contributing in part as well. Companies have entered into the spirit of the job, and have contributed materials for nothing and at cost. All materials have had to be trucked from Poona and Bombay—a sizeable operation in itself.

New theatre

Work is now going ahead on a four hundred and fifty seat theatre/conference hall, together with additional residential accommodation, dining-rooms, kitchens, lounges, etc.

A single cement-mixer is churning out concrete for the foundation from gravel which has been made by gaily attired ladies hammering rocks into smithereens.

A wash-basin brigade is running the cement to the holes in the earth

which will become the 'footings'. Any mechanical inefficiency is quickly outweighed by sheer force of numbers. A gigantic 'dyke type' retaining wall has been built on one side of the theatre from stones fashioned by hand from the reddish-brown lava type rock which abounds here. In fact all the stone products being used on construction are being quarried on the property. Nothing is wasted here.

Water, or lack of it, was the major problem here. Then one day, the hazel wand bent in expert hands to indicate hidden springs far below ground. Deep round wells, walled with local grey stone, have been dug with hundreds of hands, and they dot the property. One Goliath is seventy feet deep, with almost equal girth. Electric pumps have been attached, and water is pumped everywhere through underground galvanized piping. Electricity is provided by a large diesel generator, although recently an adequate local supply had been brought in on high-voltage lines for the buildings.

Another unique water supply feature is the vast rainwater reservoirs which take up the complete basement area of the buildings. When the Monsoons come in July, all rain falling on the roofs is gathered and guttered down into the tanks. As the rainfall is over fifty inches, this source of drinking water is too valuable to miss! The ingenuity to be seen here is quite remarkable, and what a saving of money it must represent.

Experimental farm

They have their own experimental farm here too, which has become a model for the whole area. Jersey cows brought all the way from Australia, newborn calves, bulls which are used to improve local stock. Hundreds of hens are breaking all local laying records.

The hills and the skies of Panchgani cast their powerful spell on all travellers alike. And they come from all parts of India, Asia and the world. They leave refuelled, refreshed and cleansed. The people of Assam, Bengal, Madras, Delhi, New Guinea, Malaysia, Africa, French and English Canada, Ceylon, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Ireland, France, Britain, to name a few, have all been here recently and have seen what I am seeing. They have seen a new India in the making. They have found hope for themselves and for mankind.

It is they who have raised and will raise through sacrifice, hard work and imagination, the money required to complete this centre. They and thousands more will see the job through because they have seen a new world being built here realistically, not only from the soil, but in the hearts of men.

Nigeria Police see MRA films

Police will play key role in nation's future

REQUESTED by the Nigeria Police, MRA films have been shown throughout 1969 at police barracks, to special police units and in particular to the Federal CID Training Wing. Police officials feel that as the police deals with the public more than other public services, they need training from these films in how to understand and treat people.

The Commandant of the Southern Police College at Ikeja reported, 'The films have proved highly valuable in inculcating in our trainees in particular the need for moral rectitude and the virtue of seeing beyond their own self-interest.'

The CID Training Wing have attended 58 film shows, in groups of thirty at a time. In this way each man saw a series of six different films. It was the third year that the Training Wing has arranged for its men to see the films.

Outside Lagos films have been shown last year at police barracks in six out of the twelve state capitals. From Kano, the largest of the cities of the north, this report comes:

'The film *Freedom* I have found so very helpful. I have shown the film to the Governor of the State, and his State Commissioners and Cabinet Ministers. The Governor, particularly after the show, expressed his gratitude.'

Many who see these films have asked for regular news of MRA. Newsletters now go to about 500 men in all parts of the country at intervals of six weeks.

Assistant Superintendent of Police, Dickens Sanomi, who attended the MRA World Conference in Caux, Switzerland, last year, sent a letter that went with this news in January. He is Officer Commanding the Anti-Fraud Training School of the Federal CID Training Wing. The letter went to men stationed all over the country, some of them in the area affected by the war, and now given the responsibility for law and order while the troops have been confined to barracks.

He wrote: 'News of the end of our thirty months Civil War has come in, and with you we welcome with all our hearts the new chance of building a united and great country.'

'You have recently been entrusted by the State with the full responsibility of creating confidence and stability among

the people mostly affected by the war. The task of all of us is to turn enemies into friends, and to heal the hurts and wounds of bitterness in the hearts of those around us.

'The pattern of forgiveness and open-heartedness recently demonstrated by the Leader of this country, if exploited by everyone of us, can be exported to other countries of the world. Out of the anguish there can come a spirit of reconciliation and caring deeply for one another.

'A new Nigeria must need new men. New men are those who have changed because of their acceptance and implementation of the four moral standards of absolute honesty, purity, love and unselfishness. These are the true foundations of a strong and healthy country. Can you change for the sake of this nation?

'The guidance of the Living God will show the way as each of us seek it for our personal and national life.'

Typical of the replies that are continuously coming in, are:

In my view

Honesty is more effective than sophistication

EVEN THOUGH A NURSE I do not have a natural will to serve others and for five years took glamorous jobs in Brazil and several West European countries. I flitted from one boyfriend to another and generally did as I pleased. But sophistication became meaningless, a free and easy life dissatisfied me and led to despair.

Determined to learn how to live differently, I came to work with Moral Re-Armament. For me it has meant long and full days of serving others by cooking, film-projecting, meeting many people, listening to what is on their minds and deep in their hearts and sharing valid experiences of how I change on specific points of dishonesty, moodiness, greed, lust. I find people are desperate to talk and hungry for hope.

Anyone can stand on their own two

From Port Harcourt (Eastern), 'I still believe that the country will change when everybody comes to know the faith of Moral Re-Armament. I thank you once again for sending me the booklet on "how to listen to the inner voice". It now helps me in my daily work.'

From Acure (Western), 'I have listened to the inner voice of God and realised that I have been doing wrong to disobey my seniors in the Force by not doing the correct thing when at times I am told to. I have sworn not to deceive my officers again. Moral Re-Armament has changed me from bad to good.'

From Maiduguri (Northern), 'Before I came on course to Lagos I had several persons whom I regarded as my enemies—those who had done something bad to me personally or to any of my friends. But when I returned I thought of applying the spirit of MRA of which I successfully went through. We now go about together. And I do my work without fear or favour or malice because I always apply the spirit of MRA.'



photo Strong

feet before God and enjoy fullness of life by listening willingly to His guidance and accepting His power to obey and act.

This simple truth must be taught in our homes and schools and places of work. There are many and varied ways of changing the lot of mankind, but none so permanently effective as man himself changing, and none so effectively creative as man grasping God's plan and setting his life in tune with it.

The marvel is that every person has their unique part in pioneering a sane and wonderful world. It is urgent that we decide to claim our part.

RACHEL WILLIAMS