



'MR. BROWN COMES DOWN THE HILL'

A NEW PLAY BY PETER HOWARD

PREMIÈRE AT THE WESTMINSTER THEATRE ON 28 MAY

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YOUTH AIMS FOR INDIA AND AMERICA

'No one knows for certain the causes of it or the answer to it,' said Mr. Henry Brooke, Britain's Home Secretary last week. 'Neither Capitalism nor Socialism nor Communism has managed to keep it down. All of us must do something about it.' He was speaking of 'a wave of law-breaking among the young which has been sweeping over most countries on both sides of the Atlantic and both sides of the Iron Curtain.' In India and the United States young men and women *are* doing something about it.

India

Rajmohan Gandhi has opened the first of three national training camps in Panchgani near Poona. Already hundreds of selected students from 53 schools and colleges of Bombay and Poona are there. Many more are arriving from South India. From Panchgani in 1944 his grandfather, the Mahatma, released an historic statement which pushed forward the success of the independence struggle.

'Panchgani the answer to Peking' is Rajmohan Gandhi's prediction. 'Just as young Chinese are being trained to carry hate to the world, so we will train throughout India many thousands of young men and women to carry an answer to hate to every corner of the world.'

Down With Cynicism, one of five new plays by Indian students, had its first performance in Madras on 29 April as part of Gandhi's clean-up-the-nation campaign. Linked with it a rally of 20,000 was held on the beach where Mahatma Gandhi 20 years before held his freedom rallies. A students' march through Madras streets preceded the rally, with banners proclaiming 'War on Corruption'—'Kick out Materialism'—'Banish Immorality'.

The students have invited the Governor of Madras and State Ministers to join the struggle to build new national character.

Having themselves stopped cheating in exams and 'free' railway travel, they have challenged State and Federal members of parliament to be honest about election expenses, and to cast out corruption in parliament.

United States

Young Americans are preparing to train several thousand youth at a summer conference on Mackinac Island for 'Tomorrow's America'.

East Coast university students placed a half page 'Open Letter' in the *New York Times*, *Herald Tribune* and *World-Telegram*.

They addressed it specially 'to the young men and women of Southampton's Debutante Party'. These young men and women did \$6,000 worth of damage in one night on privileged Long Island and completely wrecked one home. Several were arrested, and the court case about them was prominent in the headlines last month.

The 'Open Letter' put it to young Americans to 'cure the hatred, impurity and selfishness that divide homes, deaden youth, split nations and destroy races'. 'We can rebuild the modern world', it said.

Three thousand miles away on America's West Coast the play *Across the River*, written by U.S. youth, and the Latin American students' play *El Condor* have gone like a whirlwind through 11 Pacific Coast university campuses.

Last week *El Condor* and *Across the River* struck Phoenix, Arizona. The young task force featured in press, radio and T.V., and performed their plays for the conference of Pacific Coast student presidents and for large audiences throughout Phoenix.

When a prominent local Ford dealer, Mr. Ned Mullan, read about their activities and aims he phoned seven radio stations that advertise his car agency. 'Cancel the commercials,' he said. 'Use the paid time to promote performances of *El Condor*.'

Old Etonian's 'Freedom' safari

OVER rough dirt roads and tracks an old Etonian and the son of a Canadian farmer have just completed a 2,000-mile safari in Western Kenya.

Twenty-four-year-old Henry Pelham-Burn, of Horsham, Surrey, and Kenneth Beare, of Regina, Saskatchewan, made this journey at the invitation of the President of the Western Region of Kenya, the Hon. Wafula Wabuge.

Using a daylight film unit, the first of its kind in East Africa, they showed the films *The Crowning Experience* and *Freedom* in English and Swahili. In 27 days they gave 61 showings to audiences totalling 60,000. They lived during the journey in the film unit which is equipped for sleeping and cooking. The film is projected on to a ground glass screen in the rear of the lorry from a powerful arc projector inside.

Mr. Wabuge, who is a leader of the Opposition Party, KADU, made all the arrangements for the campaign, together with Mr. Peter Sifuma, first African Vice-President of the National Farmers' Union.

Showings were given in market places, secondary schools, missions, land settlement schemes and local government headquarters. A special showing was given for the Regional Cabinet.

President Wabuge issued a statement this week: 'Since the film was shown in my region new ideas have started to develop in the minds of the people. Everyone now talks of making the country a success. Those who have seen the film, particularly the younger generation, are convinced that if it is followed up immediately a new spirit will develop.

'Because of this I don't hesitate to tell my opposite numbers in other regions that a programme of this kind, being one way of solving our problems, should take place in every region. In this way the entire country will see what freedom really is.'

These showings are fulfilling the request of Prime Minister Kenyatta that the film *Freedom* should be shown in every village of Swahili-speaking East Africa. Since 1962 half a million in Kenya have seen the film.

Letter from an African officer

AN African army officer wrote the following letter after reading a full page on MRA in the *Daily Express*:

'Revolts such as in East Africa recently, the massacres such as in Ruanda and the border dispute between Ethiopia and Somalia will never solve our problems in Africa. Teach a soldier, teacher, worker, politician and even the Prime Minister what moral re-armament means to his country, and you will definitely solve your problems. This is my conviction and that of my friends. During the revolts at home we occasionally held discussions in privacy and we all arrived at one conclusion—"Morality of mind means a lot to poor Africa."

'Do remember Africa in your discussions. Africa needs the moral help MRA has given numerous needy countries. I believe the help MRA gives in the way of cleaning and moulding the minds of people is more valuable than the physical help Africa receives in the way of money and arms. What good to Africa is £10,000,000 worth of arms? I don't mean Africa should be defenceless. If we can know how to use our arms this would be a golden blessing. It will take time. But with the help of voluntary associations like MRA, Africa can spring from bloody ruin to a welfare state where democracy means a lot to an ordinary citizen.'

Sierra Leone statesman's source of greatness

MR. HUMPHREY WOOD, who was a guest of the Sierra Leone Government at the Independence Celebrations, writes the following tribute:

Sir Milton Margai, Prime Minister of Sierra Leone, died on 28 April. His principal achievement was to unite the different elements in his country and bring about Independence without bloodshed.

It was largely due to his efforts that the peoples in the Colony and Protectorate united. Free from vindictiveness, he was ready to forgive those who worked against him in order that the best interests of the country could be safeguarded.

His confidence sprang from his dependence on God. It was typical that he insisted that the band should play 'Lead Kindly Light' in the crowded stadium just before the new Sierra Leone flag was hoisted for the first time.

Sir Milton believed in Moral Re-Armament. He several times visited Dr. Frank Buchman's home in London with members of his cabinet. He ordered a copy of the all-African film *Freedom* and delighted to show it to his guests.

When he came to England he used to attend the plays at the Westminster Theatre. He greatly appreciated what this theatre was doing for the country.

In 1961 he invited representatives of Moral Re-Armament to attend the Independence Celebrations as guests of the Government, and arranged for the film *The Crowning Experience* to be included in the official programme. Later that year he flew to the MRA Assembly in Caux to meet Dr. Buchman.

Sir Milton was a great man. His country and Africa rightly extol his achievements and example.

WHO WILL BE THE ADVENTURERS TODAY?

By ALAN FAUNCE

I DON'T like all this talk of Britain giving moral leadership,' a ban-the-bomber told me recently.

Why should he? But like it or not, Britain is going to give a lead to other nations. Past history and present facts make it inescapable. The question is: What kind of leadership are we going to give?

British plays, actors and Beatles are raved over in the U.S.A. That country and Holland try to emulate, none too successfully, our TW-3. A British book, *Fanny Hill*, has just been declared 'not obscene' by a Danish court.

Motor-cycle gangs in South Africa read the news of our Clacton riots at Easter. Next day they copy them, breaking up the South African town of Hermanus.

Episcopal export

The Bishop of Woolwich exports to America his 'New Morality'. Mandy Rice-Davies is asked by unappreciative Turkey to leave but draws crowds and headlines in the night clubs of Italy.

In Britain, 64,000 overseas students observe at first hand how we live. Thousands more from abroad come here to learn our language, earn a living or just look around. What do they find? I heard an African student say recently, 'We learn what we see you do. What you do we take to be modern.'

Milton made this proud claim: 'Let not England forget her precedence of teaching nations how to live.' An arrogant boast? Or a humbling responsibility? We may forget it. We mostly do. But escape it we cannot.

Long time ago an Englishman named Boniface set forth from Devon. Like Drake, or Kennedy, he pioneered, and tamed a new frontier. Among the pagan tribesmen of Germany he succeeded where the legions of Rome had failed. With his own hands Boniface cut down the sacred Oak of Thor in Hesse, shattering it at almost the first stroke. By this bold deed he broke the grip of superstition on a primitive people. Through his life's work Boniface brought Germany for the first time into European society. He has been called 'the most influential Englishman who ever lived.'

England's secret

Without the Christian faith of Boniface and men like him, 'neither the history of England nor her influence on the world can be understood,' writes Sir Arthur Bryant in his *Story of England*. Because of its influence, he says, we have through the centuries evolved the principles of freedom.

Englishmen, to practise that faith in freedom, founded a new nation in North America. Those pioneers were like today's spacemen, who within a decade perhaps will build the first colony on the Moon. They were

tough, both physically and morally. In tiny ships, crowded with men and materials, they crossed the ocean; as the astronaut in his capsule, crammed with instruments, probes into space.

No quitters

The first winter in New England, half one company of settlers perished. But no one quit, when their ship returned next Spring. These hardships continued year after year till the colonists became established. For they had not gone West, like many earlier pioneers, to seek riches, but to build a home in which 'Thy will,' as they understood it, might 'be done.'

The Pilgrims like Boniface were builders, not destroyers. They shook thrones, fought for freedom and founded nations. The historian Gardiner made this comment on these Seventeenth Century revolutionaries:

'England it has been said . . . has been saved by its adventurers, that is to say, by men who, careless of whether their ways are like the ways of others . . . have set their hearts on realizing, first in themselves, and then in others, their ideal of that which is best and holiest. Such adventurers the noblest of the Puritans were. Many things existed not dreamed of in their theology, many things which they misconceived, or did not even conceive at all, but they were brave and resolute, feeding their minds upon the bread of heaven, and determined within themselves to be the servants of no man and no human system.'

Who will be Britain's adventurers today? Empires of power and pomp are dead and buried. Empires of the spirit have yet to be explored. Our task is to attempt the conquest of character, and to build a Commonwealth which will show the world how men and women of every race, class and creed are meant to live.

Man and moon

America or Russia may bridge the gap between man and moon; someone must span the gulf between man and man. We must scale, not only Everest, but the Himalayas of hate and greed that divide East from West, Haves from Have-Nots, White from Coloured.

No nation on earth is better placed to do this than Britain. We can, if we will. It will mean a mobilization, as in war, to make an end of want, of waste and of corruption. The job begins at home. It would mean the end of petty living—and in this election year, of petty politicking.

We can open up the last frontier, the desolation of unchanged human nature, and on a foundation of new human character build a world of freedom from fear and want.

Breaking the ice in Switzerland

Swiss phlegm and Italian fire do not always mix. The 700,000 Italian workers in Switzerland (one in four of the country's labour force are foreign) do not always get on with their hosts.

Swiss and Italian leaders concerned with this problem believe a play by Peter Howard is helping to break down the barriers.

The play is *Through the Garden Wall*, which ran for 252 performances in the Westminster Theatre last year. It was seen there by Miss Pina Renzi, the Italian actress, who determined to bring it to Italy. The Italian production has just completed a successful tour of 41 cities in Italy.

Now, under the patronage of the Italian Ambassador, and with the support of the Italian Foreign Ministry, the play is touring Switzerland. During five weeks it will be seen in 28 cities. The tour opened in Berne on 13 April.

At a reception in Zurich, the Lord Mayor thanked the cast for their contribution to bringing understanding between Swiss and Italians.

'We find it difficult,' he said, 'to make contact with the Italians both personally and through our institutions. This is what you are doing. You have come to contribute something very valuable not only to your own countrymen but also to us Swiss. For this I congratulate you and wish you every success.'

Replying on behalf of the company, Nino Pavese said, 'We hope that this play will help to cement bonds between Italians and Swiss. We feel sure that in future all the ideological walls in the world will be broken down in the name of Christ, who came down among us for that very purpose—to give true brotherhood to man.'

The former Rector of Zurich University, Professor Theophil Spoerri, told the cast, 'You are bringing a spirit of reconciliation to Switzerland.'

The company played last week to eager audiences in La Chaux-de-Fonds, 'watchmaking capital of the world,' Neuchatel and the resort of Montreux. This week they continue their tour in German Switzerland.

Letter from a vandal

DEAR SIR,

Society today is preoccupied with sex. Books, films, TV, radio and adverts all pour the stuff down our throats. With the exception of adverts, the same applies to violence, and vandalism is the first step to violence.

I was a vandal. With the lads at home I have stood throwing stones at a lamp-post, or stolen seats out of a park. With the lads at school I've laughed my head off while pulling chairs apart, jumping on them or bending hinges off desks.

What are the causes of vandalism? Point one: It's fun. Point two: What else is there to do? If you're too old to play games, too young to get in a pub and you've run out of money—there's nothing. Point three: It impresses the lasses

and your mates when you pull the top off a desk.

It's a pretty good case for vandalism, isn't it?

But there happens to be a movement called Moral Re-Armament. One: It's fun. Two: You can always do something for it. Three: It shrinks your head to the extent that you couldn't care less what everyone else thinks. Into the bargain you're working with well-trained, hard-working revolutionaries to wreck what's wrong in both capitalism and Communism at once, so you have to keep your shoulder to the wheel.

So if you've any vandals near you, go out and change 'em. They'll have the time of their lives.

Yours faithfully,

PHILIP COWAN, Sheffield

NEWS IN BRIEF

Odawara, Japan—The first group of Japanese youth arriving from Hokkaido, Japan's northern island, joined 500 other young men and women for training sessions at the MRA Centre.

Window Rock, Arizona—*El Condor* was performed last week in the capital of the Navaho nation, largest Indian tribe in the U.S.

Geelong, Australia—The Federal Minister of Immigration attended the play, *Out of the Shadow*, whose cast includes Malaysians, Indonesians and Australians. The showing was sponsored by the Asian Students' Association in Geelong.

Ghana News Agency—'*The Diplomats*, which portrays summit diplomacy behind closed doors, attacks discrimination in East and West countries.'

St. Martin's Review, London—'I applaud the efforts at the Westminster Theatre, whose Trustees aim by the presentation of high ethical standards to create a new spirit in the nation. I only wish that the British Council of Churches could promote some such venture supported by dramatists with spiritual urge.'

Peter Howard's new play

THE Westminster Theatre announces that a new play by Peter Howard, *Mr. Brown Comes Down the Hill*, will open on Thursday, 28 May. The run of the present play, *The Diplomats*, ends on Saturday, 23 May, after its 165th performance.

Mr. Brown Comes Down the Hill will be directed by Henry Cass, with settings by Hutchinson Scott. The distinguished company includes Eric Flynn, as Mr. Brown, John Richmond, Richard Warner, Mark Heath, Bryan Coleman, Lillias Walker and Alan White.

Seats for the new play can now be booked at theatre agents or at the Box Office, VICTORIA 0283.