

## THEATRE WORLD

# 'HARAMBEE AFRICA'— A GREAT ADVENTURE

**A**FTER a unique school-holiday adventure, 150 students from eight African countries returned to their colleges and schools last weekend. These were the cast, stage crew and publicity team of the All-Africa musical *Harambee Africa*, which had just concluded a successful tour of East Africa.

They travelled 2,000 miles in buses through typical rainy season conditions to present the show at 20 performances in less than three weeks. The towns and cities they visited included Eldoret, Mbale, Kampala, Jinja, Kisumu, Nairobi, Arusha, Moshi and Mombasa.

### Aims talks

*Harambee Africa* was originally produced last December by delegates from 14 African countries who attended the Moral Re-Armament "Aim for Africa" Conference at the Kenyatta College, Kahawa.

The theme of this conference was "How Africa can pattern a common purpose for all mankind and make a unique contribution to the growth of civilisation". Only in such an aim, the conference claimed, could the racial and tribal divisions of the continent be resolved.

This was the first conference in Africa where the youth of the continent had come together from different countries and backgrounds not just to protest against what is wrong but to demonstrate for what is right.

Among the guest speakers who addressed the conference

● *The Mayor of Nairobi, Ald. Charles Rubia, greets a Nigerian member of the cast of "Harambee Africa."*

were Dame Flora MacLeod; the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, Mr. Rajmohan Gandhi; and the vice-captain of the West Indies cricket team, Mr. Conrad Hunte.

The programme in this conference included "workshops" for drama, agriculture, journalism, education and music from which the show *Harambee Africa* got its first footing. Presented in song, dance and an amusing animal sequence, the show sets out the ideas the students would like to see spread throughout Africa.

### Televised 'live'

The highlight of the tour was their visit to Gatundu where they presented a 60-minute programme from the show for President Kenyatta and his family. The President afterwards spoke to the cast in Swahili wishing them the best of luck for their tour and urging them to take the spirit of *Harambee* to all nations of the world.

Earlier in Nairobi, the Mayor, Ald. Rubia, gave a reception for the cast. Opening the show in Nairobi before their performances, he said: "Moral Re-Armament wherever it is

found deserves every support and encouragement."

The Mayor went on to say that MRA had not only recognised the grave catastrophes that lay ahead unless man changed his ways, but had also on its own initiative decided to take positive and courageous steps to spread the teachings of the need for moral rehabilitation without which horrors would always occur.

"We are essentially interdependent, and it is of vital importance that whatever we do, whether domestic or international, teamwork is essential," the Mayor added.

*Harambee Africa* was televised "live" from the City Hall, and members of the cast also appeared on four other radio and TV programmes.

In Moshi, the Regional Commissioner of the Kilimanjaro Region of Tanzania, Mr. L. P. Dantes Ngua, M.P., received the cast at the regional headquarters and told them: "You are showing our people how to live. What you are doing can unite Africa and make it God's continent." Making a financial contribution to the expenses of the tour, he invited the show to visit Moshi again.



A South African school-teacher, Mr. Andrew Peppetta, who played an important role in organising the show, told me that the tour was a great success and that letters were pouring in from students all over Africa so that they could be considered for the coming tour scheduled in August.

### Next tour

Invitations had also been received for the cast to visit other African countries. Mr. Peppetta said that plans were already afoot for the next tour. It was hoped that the cast would visit Ethiopia, Sudan and probably Ghana and Nigeria.

"We are taking a great interest in students because we feel they are a nucleus and vehicle to achieving the aims of Moral Re-Armament.

"We have to liberate the continent and maintain our hard-won freedom. We have also to develop the continent socially, economically, politically — and morally. This will not happen by shouting slogans but by the commitment of our lives. We need men and women who cannot be bought by money, drink, position or sex," he said.