

NATIONAL THEATRE
NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS

PRESENT



HADRIAN VII

by
PETER LUKE

MARCH, 1971

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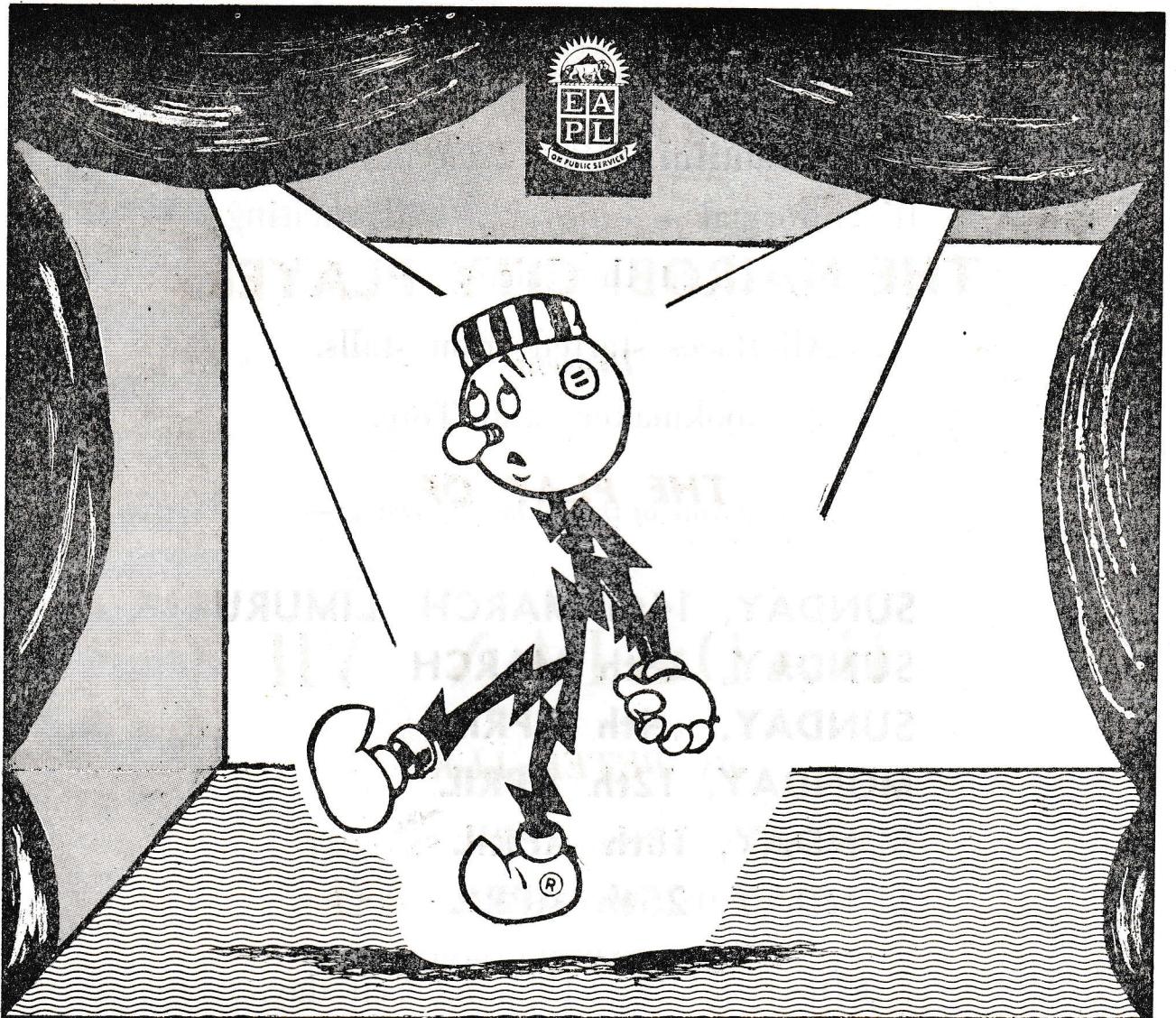
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AND LIVE BETTER *ELECTRICALLY***

KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE

THE NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS

Present

THE PLAY OF

HADRIAN VII

By PETER LUKE

BASED ON "HADRIAN THE SEVENTH"

AND OTHER WORKS BY Fr. ROLFE

(Alias BARON CORVO)

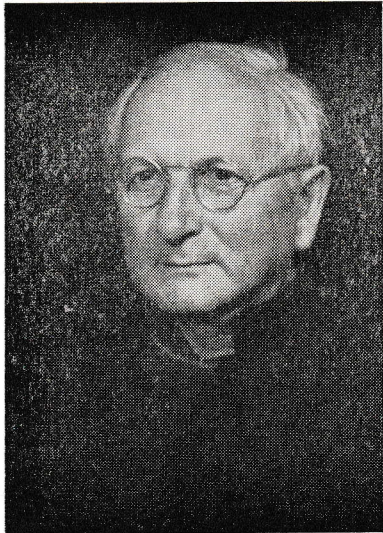
A Play in Two Acts

With

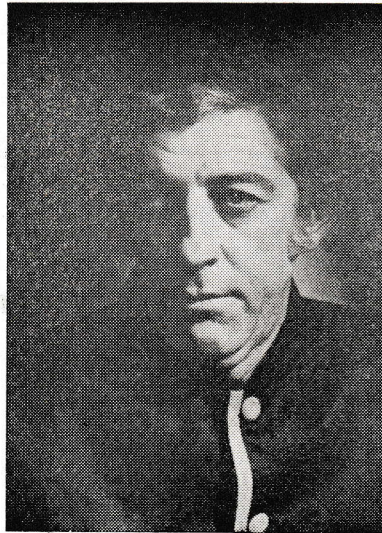
DONALD WHITTLE

as "Hadrian"

Produced by FRANK PRICE



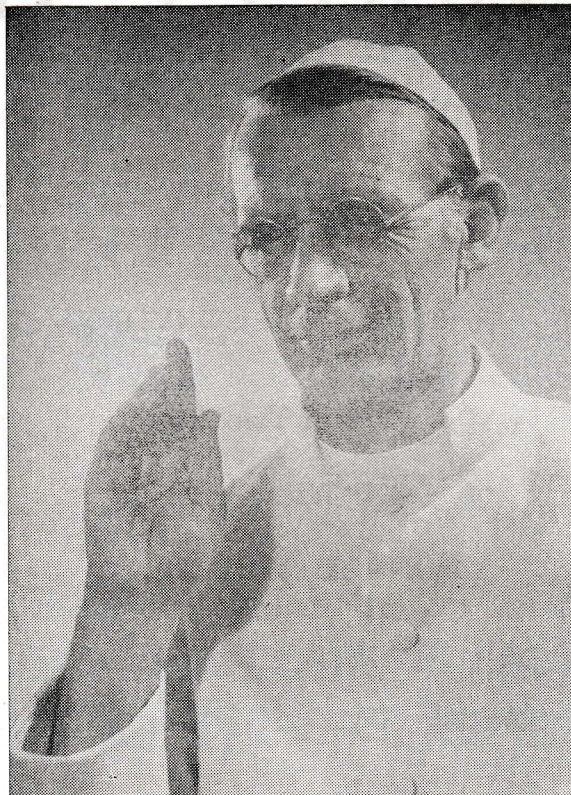
DAVID ASTON
as
"Rector of St. Andrews College"



GORDON CUTTS
as
"Father St. Albans"



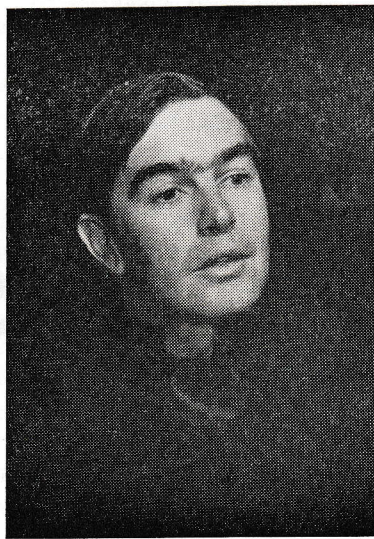
WINIFRED FERGUSON
as
"Agnes"



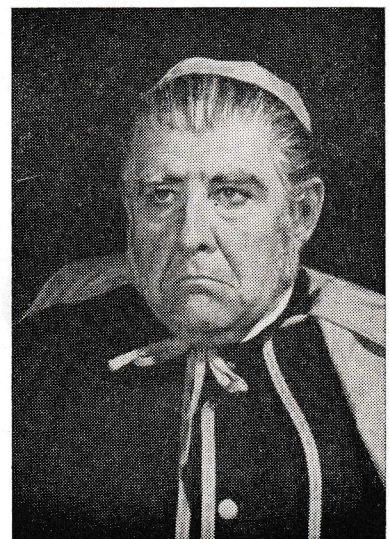
DONALD WHITTLE
as
"Fr William Rolfe"



PETER PEARCE
as
"Jeremiah Sant"



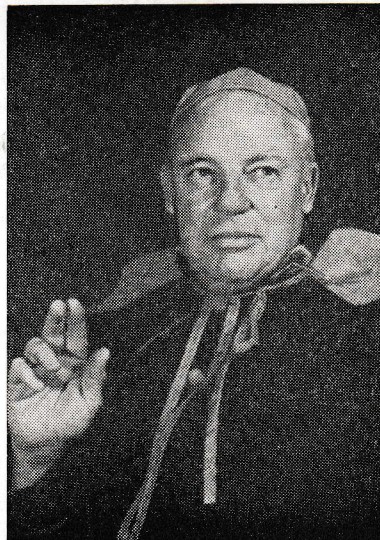
DESMOND SANDFORD
as
"George Arthur Rose"



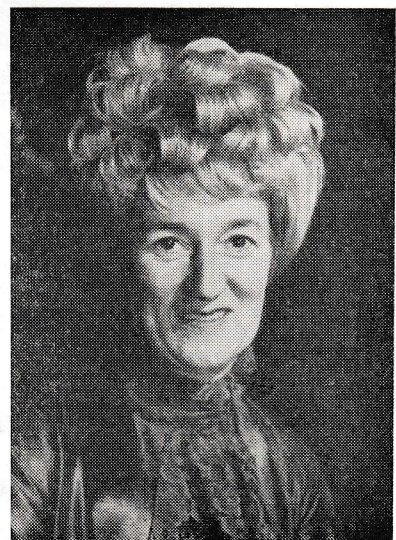
RURIK RONSKY
as
"Cardinal Ragna"



GEOFFREY DAVIES
as
"Dr. Talacryn"
— Bishop of Caerleon



BRIAN RUSSELL
as
"Dr. Courtleigh"
— Cardinal-Archbishop of Pimlico



ENID RAMSDEN
as
"Mrs. Crowe"

ABOUT THE WAY

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ABOUT THE PLAY

"Hadrian VII" is a fascinating new play by Peter Luke which has only recently closed at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket in London, after a highly successful run of three years and approximately 1,000 performances. It tells the story of Frederick Rolfe and, in the telling, envisages an English Pope being crowned in Rome.

Frederick William Rolfe (1860 — 1913) wrote the novel "Hadrian The Seventh" in attic lodgings in Hampstead in 1903. Inspiration came from the Vatican squabbles over the election of a new Pope, and the critics hailed the book as "dazzlingly clever" and "a novel of genius". Although Rolfe (with some justification) called it "a romance", into it he poured all his personal bitterness and frustration against life in general and against Roman Catholics in particular. Given Rolfe's vivid imagination, the biographical details were accurate.

Rolfe's Anglican family disowned him when he embraced the Roman Catholic faith at the age of 26. Aspiring towards the priesthood, he was twice refused Ordination on the grounds that he was devoid of vocation. Rolfe never recovered from these bitter rejections and for over twenty years continued to believe that one day he would be accepted into the Church. Without friends, money or influence, and not wishing to use the name by which he would one day be known in the priesthood, he adopted pseudonyms, among them Austin White, Francis Engle and Baron Corvo.

In turn he became painter, inventor, journalist and photographer. He would persuade a patron to keep and support him while he worked. When the patron's patience and money ran out, Rolfe would become resentful and belligerent, writing libellous letters to and about his erstwhile friends or publishing vituperative attacks in the local press. Eventually he would be obliged to leave the district, penniless, and begin again elsewhere. He worked ceaselessly and brilliantly, but without success. His own worst enemy, he became obsessed and paranoid.

It was not until he was almost 40 that he began to write seriously, and eventually achieved some measure of success. Of the dozen books (besides numerous pamphlets and articles) published, none brought him more than £50. For "Hadrian The Seventh", his acknowledged masterpiece, in which every enemy can be identified, he never received a penny during his lifetime.

Rolfe was a striking individual unable to fit into a conforming Victorian society. Everyone who knew him regarded him as the most remarkable man of his acquaintance. He might be liked or loathed, but no one was indifferent to him.

Twenty years after Rolfe's almost unrecorded death from starvation and exposure in Venice, A. J. A. Symons recorded his bizarre life in "The Quest for Corvo". Today inspired enthusiasts are still piecing together the legend of "Baron Corvo".

"I loathe not the Faith but the Faithful" he once wrote, and added arrogantly, "One day posterity will be interested in everything I have written".

HADRIAN

by

PETER LU

CAST (in order of their appearance)

Fr. William Rolfe	DONALD WHITTLE
Mrs. Crowe	ENID RAMSDEN
Bailiffs	GEOFFREY DAVIES
	BRIAN RUSSELL
Agnes	WINIFRED FERGUSON
Dr. Talacryn	
Bishop of Caerleon	GEOFFREY DAVIES
Dr. Courtleigh	
Cardinal-Archbishop of Pimlico	BRIAN RUSSELL
Jeremiah Sant	PETER PEARCE
The Cardinal Archdeacon	DENIS PATIENCE
Father St. Albans	
Prepositor-General of the Jesuits	GORDON CUTTS
Cardinal Berstein	DAVID ASTON
Cardinal Ragna	RURIK RONSKY
Rector of St. Andrew College	DAVID ASTON
George Arthur Rose	DESMOND SANDFORD

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GEOFF ALLERTON.

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BEARD, ALAN WHITFIELD.

CHOIR:

THE CHOIR OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS REGIONAL SEMINARY.

Produced

FRANK



BENE

THROUGHOUT

HADRIAN VII

by
FRANK PRICE

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

- Scene One: *Frederick Rolfe's bed sitting room in London.*
- Scene Two: *A room in Archbishop House at 7.30 the following morning.*
- Scene Three: *A Chapel in the Vatican.*

INTERVAL

ACT II

- Scene One: *Mrs. Crowe's parlour in London.*
- Scene Two: (a) *An Audience Chamber in the Vatican.*
(b) *A pavement café in Rome.*
- Scene Three: *St. Andrew's College, Rome.*
- Scene Four: *An Ante-room in the Vatican.*
- Scene Five: *The Throne Room in the Vatican.*
- Scene Six: *Hadrian's Room in the Vatican.*
- Scene Seven: *Rolfe's Room in London.*

Produced by
FRANK PRICE

BROS

THROUGHOUT KENYA.



FOR THE NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS

Stage Manager BARBARA CHASE
Assistant Stage Manager CHRIS COOK
Assisted by Geoff Allerton, Bill Waldron, Terry McGowan,
Arthur Docherty, Colin Osborne, Vanessa
Skittrall, John Hunt.
Settings designed by KATE FALK and BARBARA CHASE.
Sets constructed and painted by CHRIS COOK, Ken Latham, Dorothy Patience,
John Hunt, Barbara Chase, Bill Waldron, Kate
Falk, Terry McGowan, Elly Van der Moolen,
Colin Osborne, Vanessa Skittrall, Geoff Allerton,
Julie Bateman, Don Dalby, Judy Cocksedge,
Hugh Cocksedge, Joan Stally, Mark Cocksedge,
Hilary Mitchell, Wyndham Westerway, Lynn
Earnshaw, Richard Scordoulis, Nigel Pearce,
Anton Pearce, Franco Kimotho, Peter Njoroge,
Phillip Mwaniki, Stephen Ndinda, Stephen
Barefoot, Edward Morris, Sammy Kagiri, Arthur
Docherty, Jo Martin, Andy Baker, Nigel Bramisch,
Peter Crampton, Marlene Docherty, Tim Noad,
Dennis Patience.
Production Secretary JOAN STALLY
Property Mistress JUDY COCKSEEDGE
Assisted by Vanessa Skittrall
Lighting by ALEX ROSS, KATE FALK and MICHAEL
O'REILLY.
Costumes designed by AGNES PRICE
Assisted by Brenda Purcell and Betty Larkins.
Business Manager BRYAN EPSOM
Poster AGNES PRICE
Photographs by GEOFFREY GRIMSHAW
Programme BRYAN EPSOM and SHIRLEY BISHOP.

FOR THE NATIONAL THEATRE

Manager LEO PARDO
Box Office GERRY STONEHAM
Theatre Electricians FRANCIS LABICHE and JASON MWAI.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS wish to express their appreciation and thanks to:—

Rank Xerox Ltd.

The Most Rev. L. J. Beecher, for loan of vestments.

The Head Master, St. George's Primary School for rehearsal facilities.

The MacMillan Memorial Library, for loan of furniture.

P. D. Bhadresa, for tailoring.

Father Frank Soughly for advice and vestments.

Miss Margaret Elkington for properties.

Alan Bobbé for advice on music.

McCrae's Ltd., for furniture.

The Nairobi Hospital for loan of wheel chair.

NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS

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FRANK PRICE as “Teyve”

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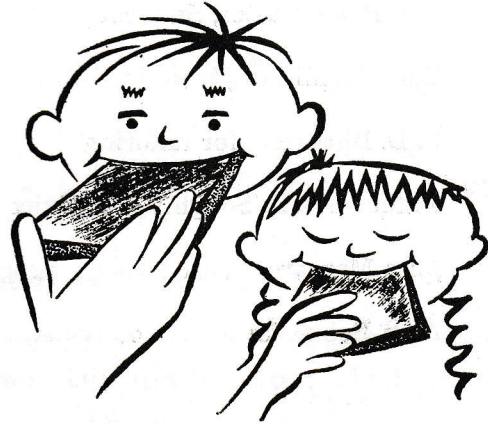
See Press for details of auditions

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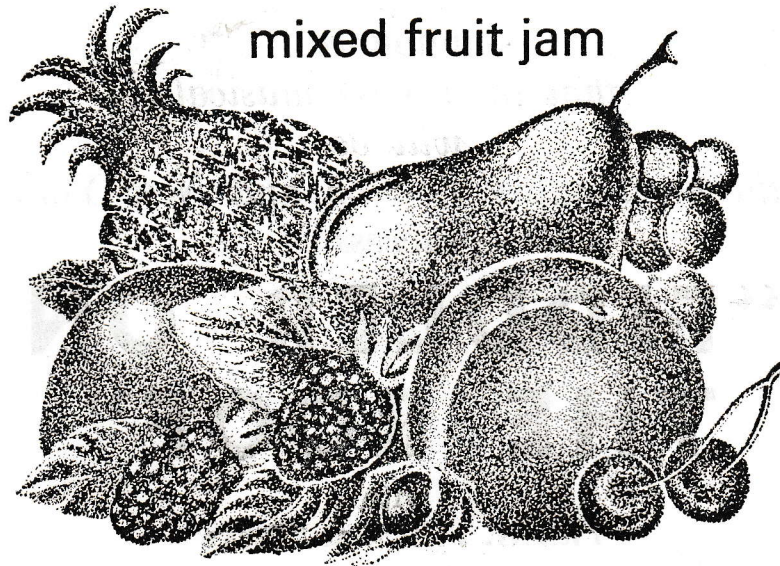


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Producer Brian Shiner

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EVELYN CHADWICK — Violin

TONY DAVIES — Piano

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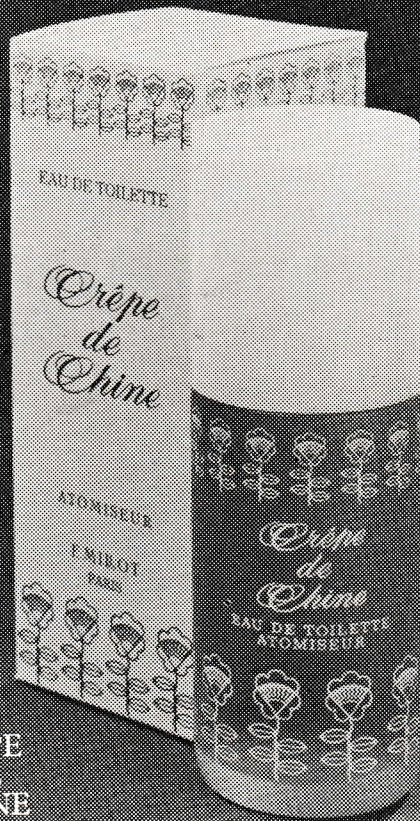
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