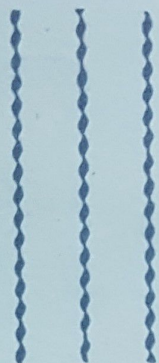


**THE  
NAIROBI CITY  
PLAYERS**

PRESENT



# **RING ROUND THE MOON**

by

**JEAN ANOUILH**

adapted by Christopher Fry

AT

**THE NATIONAL THEATRE**

**NAIROBI**

**19th — 27th July**



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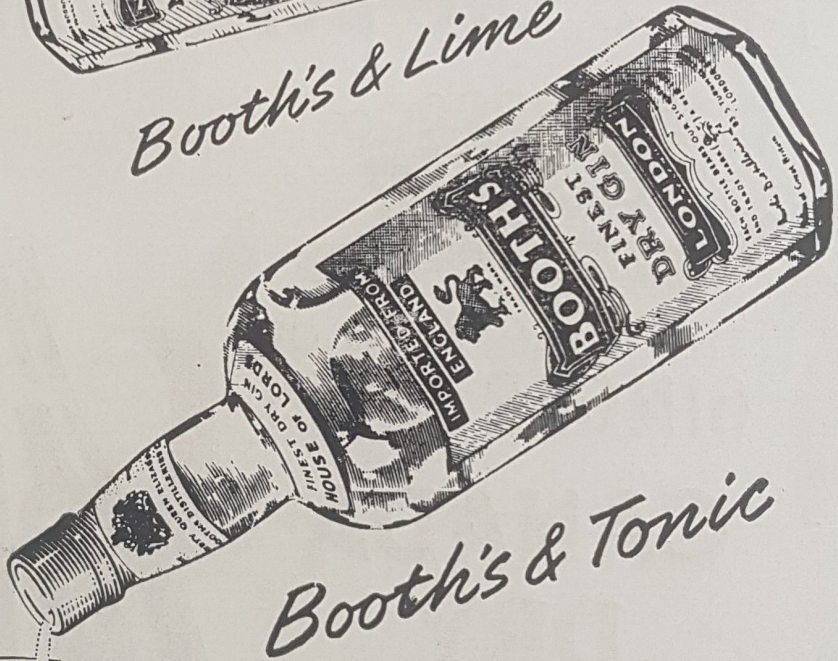
*Booth's & Bitters*



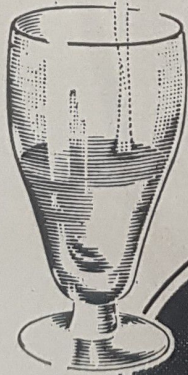
*Booth's for Dry Martini*



*Booth's & Lime*



*Booth's & Tonic*



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# RING ROUND THE MOON

When Jean Anouilh's "L'Invitation au Chateau" was produced in Paris it so intrigued producers by its tantalising and enchanting mood as to invite its adaptation to English audiences.

Anouilh is a stylist and has a manner and a way of phrasing in which much of his charm lies. To translate Anouilh is no matter of matching chat for chat: it demands re-creation, a reshaping of ideas into phrases that have an English elegance and grace. It requires the conversational equivalent, the parallel idiom, colloquialism for colloquialism, slang, for slang. It was therefore very fortunate that a playwright of the calibre of Christopher Fry was entrusted with the translation and adaptation of this delightful play.

With the quality of the writing guaranteed it was then necessary to solve the problem of design. The lovely set created by Oliver Messel succeeded completely and was widely praised for its departure from traditional decor.

Anouilh writes plays for performance rather than for paper. His literary quality is that of theatre literature, and the elegance of his dialogue becomes apparent when spoken by actors in the rhythm of a scene. His plays are conceived as ballets, as patterns of movement, as pretexts for actors performances. Anouilh is in the tradition of the "comedia dell' arte". Before this play was first presented in London it was difficult to decide how it should be described. The "comedia dell' arte" idiom is unfamiliar to English audiences. It could not be described accurately as a comedy, nor a farce, nor a ballet. Christopher Fry himself entitled it "a charade with music", but some critics held at the time that this was an understatement for this elegant piece of witty entertainment which ranges from light comedy to farce.

The play, now entitled "Ring Round The Moon" was first presented at the Globe Theatre, in 1950 and proved to be one of London's biggest successes.

# THE NAIROBI RING ROUND

by Jean  
adapted by C

*Characters in the order of their appearance*

JOSHUA, a crumbling butler	...	LEONARD PIERREPOINT
HUGO, a young man-about-town	...	JOHN EBDON
FREDERIC, his twin brother, in love with	...	JOHN EBDON
DIANA MESSERSCHMANN, engaged to Frederic, secretly in love with Hugo	...	GWYN ASHMORE
LADY INDIA, Messerschmann's mistress secretly in love with	...	ROSEMARY GARDNER
PATRICE BOMBELLES, Messerschmann's secretive secretary	...	DONALD WHITTLE
MADAME DESMORTES, Aunt to Hugo, Frederic, and Lady India	...	GWEN ALBAN
CAPULET, her faded companion	...	IVY FLETCHER
MESSERSCHMANN, Diana's father, a melancholy millionaire	...	RURIK RONSKY
ROMAINVILLE, a lepidopterist, Patron of	...	BRYAN EPSOM
ISABELLE, a ballet dancer	...	JOSIANE ROMANO
HER MOTHER, a teacher of the pianoforte	...	NOREEN ANTROBUS
A GENERAL	...	RODDY ANTROBUS
FOOTMEN	...	TONY BISHOP
		JIM STONE

---

THE PLAY PRODUCED BY RICHARD MORETON

---

SETTING, (after Oliver Messel)	...	MICHAEL REEVES
		KATE NEFDT
		JOYCE COLDHAM

---

Costumes for the cast designed and created by  
JEAN CROSER.

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# CITY PLAYERS

resent

# THE MOON

Anouilh

Christopher Fry

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

*The action of the play passes in a Winter Garden in Spring.*

ACT I. Scene 1. Morning.  
 Scene 2. The same evening. Before the Ball.

ACT II. The same evening. The Ball.

ACT III. Scene 1. The same evening. After Supper.  
 Scene 2. Dawn.

---

There will be intervals of ten minutes between the Acts.

---

Set Construction by	...	...	...	Tom Clarke and Jim Stone.
Stage Assistants	...	...	...	Tony Bishop, Eric Edwards, Jill Mackenzie, Eleanor Anderson.
Properties	...	...	...	Lyn Stone and Vera Clarke.
Music and Sound effects	...	...	...	Tom Nunan.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

May & Co. Ltd for loan of sports equipment.  
 City Parks Dept. for loan of plants and fountain.  
 Electronic Aids (E.A.) Ltd for loan of High Fidelity Sound Equipment.  
 Assistance during production by Tony Massey-Blomfield  
 Irene Steel  
 Sylvia Mauchauffee.

The Matron of the New European Hospital for the loan of wheel chair.  
*For Nairobi City Players.*

Stage Manager	...	...	Anne Keighley-Bell
Business Manager	...	...	Bryan Epsom
Advertising and publicity	...	...	Leonard Pierrepoint
Production assistant	...	...	Jess Royston-Smith.

*For the Kenya National Theatre*

Theatre Manager	...	...	Robin Harvey
Stage Manager	...	...	Tim Reynolds
Lighting	...	...	Allen Bramley
			Frank Ballard.

# LIMITED

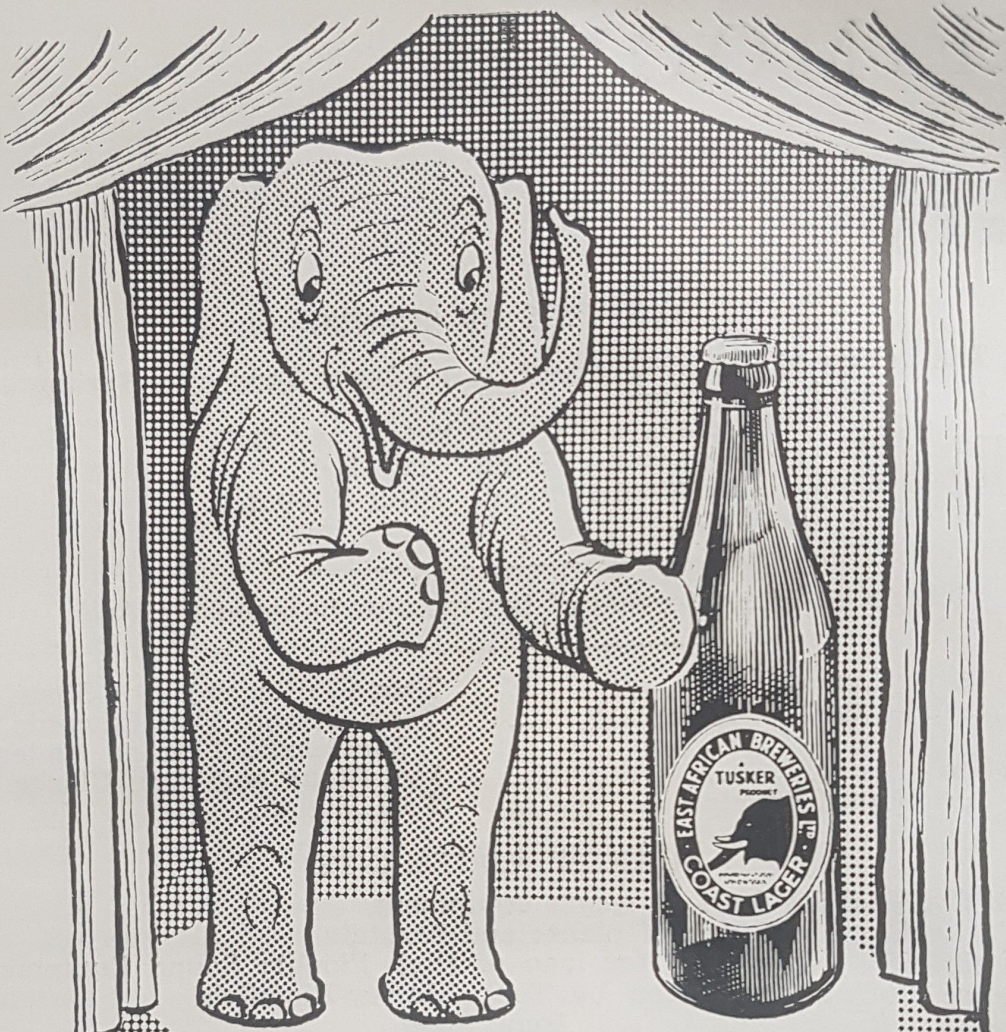
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# NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS

In November of 1956 we presented our opening production "The Love of Four Colonels". We followed this in February of this year with "The Man Who Came to Dinner". We are grateful to **you** for the magnificent support and interest you have shown which contributed largely to the success enjoyed by these plays.

At the time of our first production you will remember that we held a ballot to determine the type of plays, audiences would wish to see performed. The results of this ballot were published in the local press. With "The Man Who Came to Dinner" and our current production "Ring Round The Moon" we have followed your wishes in offering you two of the plays which received the highest votes.

We are now again requesting you to let us know your choice in plays. You will find below a further list of ten plays, all of which we should like to perform. Three of these plays are from the original ballot and are retained as they were in great favour. The remainder are all new suggestions.

Would you please mark an "X" against the **three** plays which appeal to you most in the list below. Tear off the slip and place it in the box provided outside the Manager's office in the foyer.

Place X against  
your choice

School for Scandal

Separate Tables

An Ideal Husband

Winter Journey

Romanoff and Juliet

The Touch of Fear

Design for Living

Carrington V.C.

Look Back in Anger.

Three Sisters.

R. B. Sheridan.

Terence Rattigan

Oscar Wilde

Clifford Odets

Peter Ustinov

Dorothy & Campbell Christie

Noel Coward

Dorothy & Campbell Christie

John Osborne

Anton Chekov.

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National Theatre  
in  
OCTOBER**



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**CALTEX**  
*WAY!*