

November 22 - 25, 1967

SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY THEATRE GROUP

presents

as ther entry for the National Union of

Students Drama Festival 1967

The Empire Builders

* (**Les Bâtisseurs d'Empire**)

by Boris Vian

translated by Simon Watson Taylor

Directed by Stephen Davey

* Although the translator makes no reference to this, it is worth noticing that "Bâtisseurs" means builder or building maniac. "Empire" means empire or authority and the verb "empirer" means to make worse. So it is very possible that Vian intended a pun in the original title.

Boris Vian was born in 1921. From 1946-49 he was living and working in Paris on the left bank of the Seine. It was here that he became notorious for his way of life and developed a reputation which probably accounts for the fact that the importance of his work was never realised until after his death in 1959. Vian wrote "Les Bâtisseurs d'Empire" in 1957. It was first performed in Paris in 1959 and has since been performed in almost every European capital.

Vian believed in living life to its fullest extent; in the lightness of spirit which enables one to do as one wants without being bound by convention, and for Vian this freedom was evident only in the young. In "Les Bâtisseurs d'Empire" the consequences of a lack of this love of life are terribly portrayed.

The Empire Builders

Léon Dupont, the Father MALCOLM SUSSMAN
Anna Dupont, the Mother PAT CORNWELL
Zenobia, their daughter ANNA THORPE
Mug, the Maid MARY ANN DURRANT
Neighbour MARTIN KAY
Schmürtz PETE COOK

The word "Schmürtz" is taken from the German "Schmerz" meaning pain, trouble or grief.

The Time—the present

Act I A room in the Dupont's house

Interval of 15 minutes

Act II Two days later—another room

Interval of 15 minutes

Act III Next day—the attic

The fully-licensed Theatre Bar will be open during the intervals.

Coffee, soft drinks and chocolates also available.

In accordance with the requirements of the licensing authority :

- 1 The audience may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors.
- 2 All gangways, corridors, staircases, and passageways which afford a means of exit shall be kept entirely free from obstruction.
- 3 Persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways except in positions authorised by the licensing authority and in the numbers indicated in the notices exhibited in those positions.
- 4 The safety curtain shall be lowered and raised at each performance in the presence of the audience.

The management reserves the right to refuse admission, also to make any alteration in the cast which may be rendered necessary by illness or other unavoidable causes

THE TAKING OF PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE THEATRE IS FORBIDDEN

For Southampton University Theatre Group

Production Team :

Production Secretary
Assistant to Director
Business Manager
Publicity Manager
Poster Design
Photographer
Wardrobe

Carol Unwin
Jenny Castle
Caroline Stubbings
Julia Parsons
Peter Dubock
Frank Spooner
Pam Harrison, Julie Newman

Stage Properties
Make Up

Bob Bonwitt
Sue Jenkins, Paddy Dann,
Sally Liddon, Bob Croft

Prompter

Carolyn Gordon Wright

Stage Administration :

Lighting and set design
Stage Manager
Assistant to Stage Manager
Board
Sound
Stage Crew

Mick Brett
P. R. D. Scott
A. Paddle
A. S. Parkinson
D. Hoare
I. Gondie, R. J. Kings,
P. Jackson, J. Smith,
A. Trinder, G. Williams,
P. Bushill

Acknowledgments to: E. W. Wyett, Second Hand Furniture Dealer

For Nuffield Theatre

Licensee
Business Manager
Technical Manager
Chief Electrician

D. A. Schofield
Joan H. Abbs
G. L. S. Batty
Derek Jones

NEXT WEEK AT THE NUFFIELD THEATRE

November 29, December 1 and 2 (Wednesday, Friday, Saturday)

Southampton University Opera presents

Così fan tutte

by Mozart
7.30 p.m.

8/- 10/- 12/6 15/-

December 7 - 9

Southampton University Players present

Tartuffe

by Moliere in the English adaptation by Miles Malleson
7.30 p.m.

All seats 6/6