

TSA/UAac 1980, 1,

THE ACTING COMPANY production

Theatre Guild



# Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

## A Magical Tale from Camelot!

All the joys and terrors of Medieval England are brought to life in a story of music and magic; of dragons and danger; of Gawain and the mysterious Green Knight. Come and see it!

Adapted by Chris Tugwell and Malcolm Downes.

At the **SCOTT THEATRE**, Kintore Avenue.  
January 12-24, at 11 am and 2 pm. Saturdays, 2 pm only.

Adults: \$4.00 Concessions: \$2.00

Book NOW at all BASS outlets

## THE ACTING COMPANY

In February 1980, The Acting Company was formed as a professional group of actors operating within The University of Adelaide Theatre Guild and based at Unley. It is a community theatre company working with special emphasis on the area of youth theatre, under the general directorship of Sue Rider. The Company aims to present work of a high standard with a style of economical no-fuss production, relying not on elaborate stage effects, but on the energies and dynamism of live performers.

In 1980 the Company presented five shows:

- 'The City of Unley Show': local history dramatised;
- 'Smile, Smile, Smile': the poetry and prose of war;
- 'The Caucasian Chalk Circle' by Bertolt Brecht;
- 'Macbeth' Workshop;
- 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight'.

The programme for 1981 includes:

- A new Australian play;
- 'Youth Writes': the poetry and prose of young people (for "Come-Out '81"). Contributions for selection in this programme may be submitted until February 1, 1981.
- 'Smile, Smile, Smile';
- 'Macbeth' (complete text);
- 'Hamlet' Workshop;
- 'Donne and Hopkins': the poets and their work;
- 'The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew' by Robert Bolt.

For further information about The Acting Company, please phone 223 4333, ext. 2407 (Theatre Guild, Campus office); 269 2038 After Hours (Sue Rider); or write to Theatre Guild Acting Company, G.P.O. Box 498, Adelaide, 5001.

The Acting Company is delighted to join with Channel 7 for this special Christmas show, and at the same time, aid the Good Friday Appeal.

## THE PLAY

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight comes to us as a long story-telling poem from the Middle Ages, and is recognised as one of the greatest masterpieces of that time.

Despite this, the name of the fourteenth-century author of the poem is unknown. It was, of course, written in the language of that time, and has to be translated, to be easily understood today. One of these translations, the Penguin edition by Brian Stone, was used as the basis of this play; coupled with references to the original poem.

The work of adapting the play from the poem was done by Chris Tugwell (who is also our director) and Malcolm Downes, who have worked together on several scripts in the past. The play was then workshopped by the company members, who made their own contributions of songs, extra dialogue, music and masks. The result is a co-operation of talents, over six centuries.

## THE LANGUAGE

The poet uses a particular technique to strengthen the effects of his language; a technique called alliteration, which means that many lines have words all beginning with the same letter. For example, when he describes the Green Knight, the poet says:

Wel gay watz this gome dressed in green

which is difficult for a modern audience to understand. Translated into modern English, this means "This knight was gaily dressed in green". The alliteration, because of the tongue-twister effect, makes this language difficult for an actor to say.

## THE STORY

It is Christmas-time at King Arthur's Court of the Round Table. Suddenly, the feasting is interrupted by a strange figure dressed all in green, and bearing a large axe. He proposes a Christmas game: he dares any knight to strike him one blow with the axe, on the condition that he can then return the blow in one year's time. Arthur is astounded: surely no man could survive such a blow, let alone return it! But Sir Gawain takes up the challenge, with strange consequences.....

## **THE CAST**

(in order of appearance)

Fool	SUE GILES
King Arthur	GRANT HEHIR
Queen Guinevere	JEAN RIGBY
Sir Gawain	MIKE PIOVESAN
Morgan Le Fay	SUE RIDER
Bertilac	NICK GILL

## **THE SCENES**

A New Year's Banquet at Camelot.  
Morgan Le Fay plots against Arthur.  
Gawain departs from Camelot.  
The Journey through the Wirral.  
Morgan plans to deceive Gawain.  
Gawain reaches Bertilac's Castle.  
Gawain exchanges gifts, and is tempted.  
Gawain finds the Green Chapel  
The Green Knight returns the blow.  
Arthur receives the News.

There will be no Interval.

# PRODUCTION TEAM

Director CHRIS TUGWELL  
Producer RAY SWIFT  
Stage Manager TRISHA MARKS  
A.S.M.'s SARAH LAURENCE, MALCOLM CALDER

## SET

Design IGOR HORENKO  
Construction BILL FIELD, RAY SWIFT,  
STEWART WAY, SARAH LAURENCE,  
GREG DIAMANTIS, HELEN MOORE,  
MALCOLM CALDER, CHRIS TINGLEY,  
GERALDINE MOORE, TRISHA MARKS,  
LINDSAY MONTEITH  
Scenic Painting BILL FIELD, RAY SWIFT  
Special Effects BILL FIELD, RAY SWIFT, NICK GILL  
operated by SARAH LAURENCE, MALCOLM CALDER,  
TRISHA MARKS  
Properties BILL FIELD, GREG DIAMANTIS,  
RAY SWIFT  
Flies BILL FIELD  
Lighting Design CHRIS TUGWELL  
Lighting Operator KEVIN SOPER  
Sound GEORGE GALLOWAY  
Masks LUKE CUTLER, NICK GILL  
Costumes LOUISE WAKEFIELD, LUKE CUTLER,  
BARBARA PULLAN, MELINDA BOSTON

## PUBLICITY

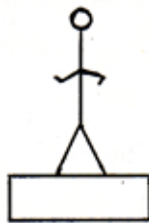
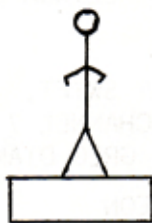
Management PHILIP PIKE, RAY SWIFT,  
MARGARET ROSE, CHANNEL 7  
assisted by SARAH LAURENCE, GREG DIAMANTIS  
Graphics IRMA PONCE DE LEON  
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NICK GILL  
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MARY-ANN ROBINSON

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ADS Channel 7  
Scott Theatre Management Committee  
Adelaide College of the Arts and Education  
State Theatre Company  
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State Opera  
The Performing Arts Collection  
John Blain  
Reg Bennett  
The University of Adelaide Drama Department  
Phil Liddicoat  
Roy Wooding  
Joan Edge  
Kym Osborn  
Student Union Office  
George Patterson

## CAN YOU SOLVE GAWAIN'S RIDDLE?

The Fool is trapped in one of these boxes:



One of these men always tells the truth; the other always lies.

If you could ask only one question, how would you find out which box the fool is in?

# THE GUILD

## PATRON

Professor D.R. Stranks

## THE BOARD

Dr. G.S. Laurence (Acting Chairman)

Mr. G. Diamantis	Professor G. Nerlich
Mr. W. Field	Ms. J. Peoples
Mr. C. McKerlie	Mr. M. Reardon
Ms. A. Michael	Ms. S. Vile

Mrs. P. Bulbeck (Treasurer)

Mrs. M. Rose (Secretary)

Mr. R. Swift (Production Manager)

## GUILD MEMBERSHIP

WHY NOT CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE THEATRE GUILD?

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE:

DOUBLE	-	\$5.00
SINGLE	-	\$3.00
STUDENT	-	\$1.50

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES INCLUDE:

1. A 50% REDUCTION ON ALL TICKETS FOR MAJOR PRODUCTIONS. THUS, AT CURRENT ADMISSION PRICES, MEMBERS PAY ONLY \$2.50, AND STUDENT MEMBERS ONLY \$1.00.
2. ADVANCE PUBLICITY NOTICES FOR ALL PRODUCTIONS.
3. THE RIGHT TO TAKE PART IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GUILD THROUGH VOTING RIGHTS AT THE A.G.M.

ENQUIRIES: Phone 223 4333, Ext. 2407

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