

THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY LITERARY SOCIETY

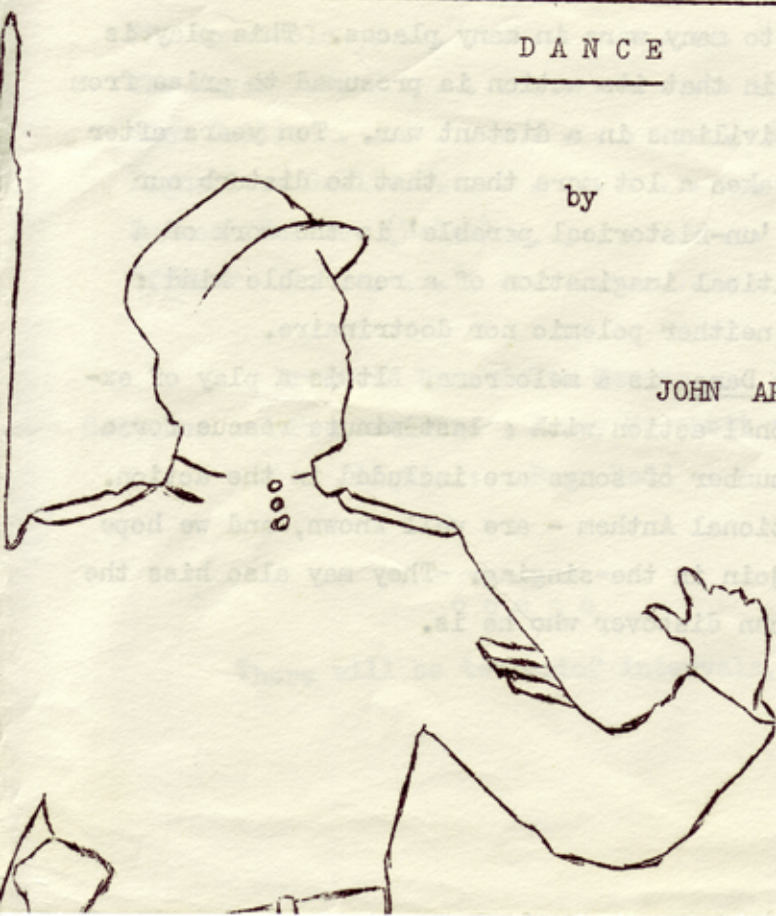
presents

SERJEANT MUSGRAVE'S

DANCE

by

JOHN ARDEN



This play was first produced in England at the Royal Court Theatre in 1959. At that time the war of national liberation that occupied the headlines was going on in Cyprus. John Arden has said that some of his action derives from what he was told about an incident in Cyprus; but he sets his play in an un-defined time in Queen Victoria's England and the colonial war his soldiers have come from is never localised. Accordingly his investigation of the relation between war abroad and civil unrest at home is properly called 'an un-historical parable', and can be applied to many wars in many places. This play is perhaps only dated in that its action is presumed to arise from the death of five civilians in a distant war. Ten years after it was written it takes a lot more than that to disturb our consciences. This 'un-historical parable' is the work of a historical and political imagination of a remarkable kind: and the parable is neither polemic nor doctrinaire.

Serjeant Musgrave's Dance is a melodrama. It is a play of exciting and sensational action with a last-minute rescue for a conclusion, and a number of songs are included in the action. Some - like the National Anthem - are well known, and we hope the audience will join in the singing. They may also hiss the villain - if they can discover who he is.

The Cast

Private Sparky Peter Meredith
Private Hurst John Edge
Private Attercliffe Chris Pollnitz
Joe Bludgeon, a Bargee Tim Mares
Serjeant Musgrave Keith Gallasch
The Parson Trevor Horton
Mrs. Hitchcock Jill Black
Annie Rosemary Kenny
The Constable Kent Driver
The Mayor Claude Wischik
Slow Collie Alex Kalloniatis
Pugnacious Collie John Cook
Earnest Collier (Walsh) Chris White
Officer Dayle Redden

Produced by : Tim Mares

Costumes and Properties : Jenny Morphett and Rosemary Kenny

Lights : Burr Dodd

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There will be two brief intervals.

A.U.L.S.

is obliged to : -

The Police Department for the loan of firearms

Theatre '62 for some costumes

The A.B.C. for recorded music

and to many others