



Welsh leaders invite 'India Arise'

WELSH leaders have invited *India Arise* to Wales where it will open in Swansea on 20 April. In their letter of invitation they write, 'For the past two years the revue has toured the main cities of India. They now want to bring to other countries their revolutionary passion to remake the world. While here, they will gain the experience of living and thinking for other nations. They can give to Britain new hope for the future of Asia, and a new conception of our role in that continent.'

'We personally have very great pleasure in associating ourselves with the invitation to the cast of *India Arise* to come to Wales. We believe that they will find a warm welcome among our people.'

The invitation committee is as follows: Edwin Cambrensis, Archbishop of Wales; Col Sir Cennydd Traherne, TD, LL D, Lord Lieutenant of Glamorgan; The Most Rev John A Murphy, Archbishop of Cardiff; Ald H E Edmonds, JP, Lord Mayor of Cardiff; Ald T R Davies, JP, Mayor of Swansea; Coun L Pardoe-Thomas, JP, Mayor of Newport; Ald W H Lewis, JP, Mayor of Port Talbot; Ald Wynford Davies, JP, Mayor of Carmarthen; Coun Margaret M Mathias, JP, Mayor of Pembroke; Coun Ivor Crockford, JP, Mayor of Tenby; Rev J P Davies, Moderator, Presbyterian Church in Wales; Rev W John Samuel, Moderator, Congregational Church, Wales; Rev William Davies, General Superintendent, Baptist Union, S Wales; Rev Dr Maldwyn L Edwards, Chairman, Cardiff and Swansea District, Methodist Church;



A scene from 'India Arise'

Photo: David Channer

County Alderman Llewellyn Heydock, CBE, JP; Charles C Barry, District Officer N U G M W, Swansea area; Glyn Davies, Swansea; R P Turbeville Deere, JP; Ken Griffin, Area Secretary, Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions; Ernest Hickery, Divisional Officer, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation; W G King, Manager, Swansea Docks; Bernard Maddin, Secretary, Dockers' Section, T & G W U, Port Talbot; M

K Mehta, Cardiff; County Coun George T Morgan; Coun Charles L Thomas, Swansea; Coun D G Thomas, JP, Pontardawe; Mansel Thomas, D Mus, F R A M; David Watkins, Newport; Ossie Wheatley, Cardiff; H George Williams, National Executive Committee Member, T & G W U; Jake Williams, JP.

India Arise will also give performances on 3, 4 and 5 May in St Peter's Hall, Cardiff.

DRUG TAKING INDICTMENT

The passion for drugtaking is an indictment of our whole society. The burden of blame cannot be laid solely at the door of the smugglers, pushers or the 'with-it' youth.

Professor Francis Camps, a leading pathologist and Professor of Forensic Medicine at the London Hospital Medical College, this week said that restrictive measures against drugtaking may be necessary but were 'not the answer, the ultimate answer'.

Commenting on Camps' speech at

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Professor Camps makes a point in discussion with Arthur Smith, a London chemist. In the background is Dr Ernest Claxton, (left) Geoffrey Lean, Oxford University and Nigel Wattis, sixth former.

Photo: Blair



Dutch welcome 'India Arise' at airport.

Photo: Channer

BRITONS JOIN 'INDIA ARISE'

On Good Friday ten of us from the cast of *It's our country, Jack!* arrived at Caux for an international conference and to join the *India Arise* cast on their journey through Europe. On arrival Rajmohan Gandhi invited us to the conference room where the Indians were preparing the morning assembly.

No time was wasted on introductions as the Indians immediately included us in discussing the theme of the meeting, 'The true destiny of Switzerland'. In the chair was 20-year-old Arun Mundkur, a student from Bangalore. As everybody pitched in their ideas for the meeting I was struck by the Indians' tremendous gaiety and humour.

Getting to know them during the next days was easy. The Indians are ready to talk with an openhearted honesty about themselves, about what they feel for India and for Europe.

Nine languages

The wealth of the West has not gone unnoticed. Transistor radios and electric razors are the height of luxury for them. But, as one of them said, 'Materialism is not what you have but an attitude you take to what you've got.'

They have brought with them all the colour of their country. They come from many castes, creeds and backgrounds and between them they speak nine Indian languages. Their diversity is matched by the variety of their songs, from the 'Water Buffalo song' to 'Will there be rice tomorrow, dad?' sung by 10-year-old Sailal Jedhiya accompanying Sonny Singh from Bombay.

They have also brought with them a sense of responsibility born out of much experience of the situation in their country. The Indians have a deep love for their country and are passionate to bring an answer to its problems. They do not pretend to have all the answers but they are not too proud to ask for help from the West. I asked one Indian what he thought we from Britain could be doing with them to help the most. After some thought he said, 'Help us to give our best in the countries we are in.'

MICHAEL SMITH

INDIANS want to help nations

The Dutch News Agency (ANP) reported on the visit of *India Arise* to Holland: 'They (the cast) want to help each nation to find its special role in this torn world.'

'The group consists of Indians from different religious and social backgrounds, rich and poor, old and young, from the towns and the villages. They bring a show which portrays their conviction to tackle India's problems. They want to fight against poverty, hunger, corruption and despair in their country and build a united, clean and strong India, which can give a contribution to Asia and the world.' After mentioning the countries which have been and will be visited the story adds, 'Friends and co-

fighters have paid for the tour. The Indians believe that with their performances they will change people everywhere and bridge division and hatred because they have decided to use their lives for other people.'

The President of Philips Electrical Industries of Holland, Frederick Philips, speaking after a performance of the musical in Eindhoven, said, that the cast were bringing 'the secret of unity'—the most needed thing in the world.

Hundreds greeted the Indians on their arrival at Schipol Airport, Amsterdam. Among them was the teacher from the school near Arnhem who with his pupils started the fasting to help India which led to the 'Food for India' campaign, raising £2½ million.

THREE CAREERS IN A LIFETIME—

French steel firm points way

HOW 1700 redundant steelworkers were retrained and found jobs was told at a recent Caux conference. The way this task was carried out has considerable relevance for Britain today.

Jean Quesnel, before becoming delegate-general for Industrial Development in Lorraine, was closely concerned with the closing of a large steel plant in the south-west of France. It belonged to a company, the Loire Steel Mills, with 15,000 workers, and its Chairman was Marcel Macaux. Quesnel paid tribute to Macaux, who died recently, for his application of Moral Re-Armament and told part of the story.

It began when Macaux apologised to his Works Council. The union leaders thought they hadn't heard alright.

Stormy meetings

He told them he was sorry for mistakes he had made. He had decided to change, and they could see it had happened. The secretary of the Works Council said, 'I used to come out of these stormy meetings exhausted. Now it is quite different.'

What had done it? Macaux had seen a play *The Boss* by Peter Howard, which came to the steel town of Firminy where he had his headquarters. The play shows a hard-bitten boss who feels he had to lay off 1,000 workers to keep the business afloat. When he starts to put people before profit as his primary concern, he finds a way to keep the 1,000 men and keep the business going.

This was almost the exact situation Macaux was facing. And he decided to adopt a similar solution to the one in the play. Four weeks later officials of the French Government and the European Steel community were astonished to get a letter from Macaux saying his companies were not going to lay off a single man for four years. The industrial review *L'Enterprise* praised it as 'a commitment without precedent in the annals of the steel industry' but considered it 'an act of folly'. Two years later the paper reported that the firm had actually increased its staff.

Then came a situation in one of the

company's steel plants in south west France which is typical of many facing British industry today. A factory with 1700 workers would have to close down and the men either be unemployed or retrained for new jobs. For men over 40 or 50 this would not be easy, though in today's world of rapid technological change men will possibly have to do three or four different jobs in a lifetime and train anew for each.

The problem faces Britain right now as there are 569,000 registered unemployed. The Government has set up 35 training centres and hopes to retrain 15,000 people for new employment by the end of the year. The Ministry of Labour is working with 18 major industries in other training schemes that are self-financing and under the industries' own control.

The factory that Macaux had to deal with had a further difficulty. It was at Boucau in south-west France near Biarritz, which is primarily an agricultural and tourist region with hardly any industries to provide new jobs.

However, the chairman was determined, as a result of his new priorities in industry, to create jobs for the 1,700 men involved and the total of 5,000 people whom they and their families represented.

He negotiated and signed the first agreement reached in France between a private company and the government. Its purpose was to bring new industries to the region, get the workers to move voluntarily into them and do it all in three years.

Totally different

Macaux and his colleagues found there were regional sulphur and gas resources not yet developed. They persuaded ten chemical firms to set up plants there and to take on the redundant steel workers, whose average age was 42.

These men of course would have to be retrained for this totally different work. There is a national Adult Professional Training scheme in France, La Formation Professionnelle des Adultes (FPA). But the average age of men entering the FPA is only 18½.

The organisation has not had success with over forties.

The Boucau steel workers decided to try out the training courses and take the exams. This was partly because their plant was going to close anyway, partly because if they got through the tests they would be upgraded and get a 40% rise in wages.

There was also a psychological hurdle to get over. Mature men, heads of families, exposed themselves to the humiliation of possible failure if they failed the tests. They had to change as much as the boss had had to. And they had to face discouragement from their union chiefs, who were not at all enthusiastic about the scheme.

The right to work

Despite all this 300 workers out of 600 passed their exams. Average age was 39 and some were 55 or 56.

When the steel plant shut, 1705 men were made redundant. When the ten chemical plants were at work, 1,720 were on their payrolls.

Macaux was not there to see this fruit of his own change, for he had died. But Quesnel told the Caux conference he would send the report on Macaux's work to all union and management leaders in Lorraine.

'I want the employers to know that these workers have not only improved their skills. They have shown human qualities above the average and form an industrial elite. Managers and owners should give them their right—the right to work.'

To the trade unions he said, 'I am amazed that the unions have not claimed this right for these men. For it is most unlikely that foremen and engineers will in the future be able to have 30 years in the same speciality. They will have to be reclassified more and more frequently. The problem faces the steel, coal and textile industries of Lorraine.'

He might have added that it faces these and many other industries in Britain. British Ministry of Labour officials, managers and unions could perhaps gain from Macaux's pioneer work and themselves tap the source from which it sprang.

REGINALD HOLME

Aids need character training

S. Salvi, representing the head of the technical aid programme of the Swiss Government at a conference in Caux, said character building was essential at both the giving and receiving end of aid. 'I am certain that the work of Rajmohan Gandhi in this direction is absolutely effective. It needs to be multiplied on an enormous scale.' He added that it would be particularly helpful if more people would be trained at Caux. 'My experience here has been of immense value,' he said.

An Austrian delegation included Count Kottulinsky of Vienna, Secretary of the Austrian Industrialists' Association. Italian and Spanish workers from different parts of Switzerland took part in the Assembly last weekend.

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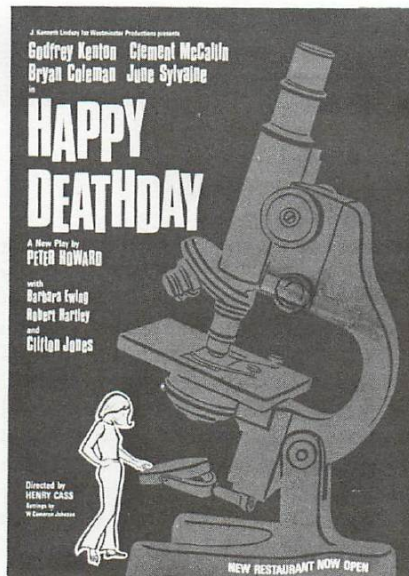
the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre *The Times* medical correspondent wrote: 'It may well be that the final answer will involve a drastic alteration in the present permissive moral outlook of the community—and particularly of parents.'

Yet while Home Secretary Roy Jenkins' police are searching teenagers in possession of illegal drugs and men are arrested for the illegal importation of drugs, another member of Her Majesty's Government is urging the legalisation of marijuana. While Jenkins is promoting a bill to discourage drug addiction, his colleague Lord Kennet in his book *Eros Denied* writes that marijuana is 'something to be taken at parties, as drinks are'—ignoring the fact that soft drugs often lead to hard drug addiction.

This is the strange anomaly of Britain today and it is of course no way to produce a drastic change in the permissive moral outlook of society. What Britain does need is a world purpose. This would give her people, young and old, once again the exhilaration of adventure and the achievement of something worthwhile.

It is the vacuum created by the lack of these qualities in our national life that drugtaking is attempting to fill.

BRIAN LIGHTOWLER



HAPPY DEATHDAY, a play by Peter Howard, reopens, following the fire at the Westminster Theatre, on Thursday 27 April, at 7.45.

Evenings at 7.45. Matinees: Wednesday, Saturday at 2.30.

PLAY ON KEIR HARDIE READ

Fulton Mackay and Pauline Wynn read the leading parts of Keir Hardie and his wife, Lily, in *Hero For Today* a new play by Henry Macnicol, based on the life of the founder of the British Labour Party. The reading was given before a packed audience in the Westminster Theatre Restaurant on 2 April. It was produced by Howard Reynolds. Fulton Mackay is appearing in *The Troubleshooters* TV series and his latest stage appearance was earlier this year in *Justice Is A Woman* at the Vaudeville Theatre. The part of Bob Wilson, Keir Hardie's brother-in-law and life-long colleague was read by Paul Angelis and Helena McCarthy read the role of his mother.

The third reading in this new series of experimental theatre evenings will be on 7 May when *An Independent State*, by Hugh Steadman Williams, a new play set in contemporary Africa, will be read by West End artistes.

Iranian leaders see 'Crowning experience'

Leaders in Iranian housing, education and agriculture last month saw *The Crowning Experience*.

At one showing under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Housing and Welfare, the Deputy Minister, Koorush Amoozegar, introduced the film emphasising the part MRA had played in overcoming housing problems in Britain, South Africa and India.

The Deputy Minister of Education also arranged a screening of *The Crowning Experience* at a women's teachers' training college.

On request of college authorities the film was shown to professors and students at the Agricultural College of Karaj, 30 miles from Teheran. Graduates from this college play a major part in the agricultural development of the country, 80% of whose population gain their livelihood from the soil.

Film shown in Bombay

The Hindi version of the film *A Challenge Met* was screened this week in an open air compound at the Tata Swadeshi Mills Housing Estate in Bombay. Over 500 employees of the mill and their families watched the film. The occasion was arranged by the mill's maintenance engineer, S R Mistry, whose daughter is in *India Arise*.

YOU ARE INVITED TO MEET THE CAST OF *INDIA ARISE*

EAST HAM TOWN HALL

Barking Road, London, E.6

SUNDAY 16 APRIL
at 3 p.m.

Music from 'India Arise'
Rajmohan Gandhi will speak.