

NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS

PRESENT

"THE RAINMAKER"

A Drama in Three Acts

by N. RICHARD NASH

adapted by KENNETH WATENE

Directed by

RON MARKS.

AT THE KENYA CULTURAL CENTRE

FROM 18TH TO 26TH OCTOBER 1974.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

"Drought's drought and a dream's a dream." So says Noah early in Act One, giving voice to the crux of the play - the conflict between the "realistic" and "idealistic" attitudes to life, between "common sense" and "imagination", the "hard-headed" and the "starry-eyed". Perhaps "somewhere between the two....."

Of course, such a theme is well-worn, but it also wears well. And since the conflict belongs to the "inner man", time and location are not of the most vital significance. So although the play was originally set in "a Western State of the U.S.A.", its translations here to "somewhere in Africa" should in no way reduce its impact while perhaps removing any minor barriers that might hinder an African audience from relating to it. "Drought is drought" wheresoever.

Sparked off originally, before he was recalled to England, by David Kelsey, to whom I am indebted, this production has been very much the effort of a team, of which I've enjoyed being a member. Changes in arrangements meant the withdrawal of some of the original cast, and two members joined only three weeks before opening night. But I doubt if they could now be picked out from the team by anyone not "in the know".

CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

H. C. Sayo	.....	GEORGE OHAWAH
Noah Sayo	.....	LEE KANYARE - KAGUONGO
Jimmy Sayo	.....	KIZITO WADEMI
Lizzy Sayo	.....	PATRICIA BLAKNEY
File	.....	CHARLES BOUND
Mr. Felix	.....	PIKE McCASLAND
Bill Starbuck	.....	JOHN OKUMU
Villagers:		
Cecilia Ulasi	.....	ALTHEA KAMINJOLO
Sheila	.....	MILLICENT GITHEIYA
Oki	.....	STEVE GATTUI KIMANI

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES:

The Action takes place in AFRICA in the kitchen and store-room, of the SAYA Farm, and at a local admin. office during a drought.

ACT I

Day: Temperature 102 degrees.

ACT II

That evening: 104 degrees

ACT III

Later the same night.

NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS

IN September, 1956 an "acting group" was formed to be known as the Nairobi City Players and in its Constitution set down the following aims and objects:—

- Regularly to present theatrical productions of a good dramatic and artistic standard by utilising and co-ordinating the best available acting talent, producers, set designers and technical stage assistants.
- Towards the fulfilment of (a) above, to be unstinting in the cost of production, subject to the limit set by Standing Committee.
- To take all necessary steps to encourage the drama and to improve the facilities available for theatrical productions.

The City Players have adhered rigidly to these aims from their formation and since that time have presented at the National Theatre, Nairobi, a total of 69 productions including 17 full scale musicals (figures include the current production).

The City Players are controlled by a STANDING COMMITTEE as follows:—

Tim Butchard (Chairman)	Tony Bishop
Bryan Epsom (Business Manager)	Benny Goodman
Gordon Purcell (Treasurer)	Peter Pearce
Trevor Fox (Executive Member)	Vic Francis
Rurik Ronsky	Ken Latham
Ray Charman	Nick Donne

In addition to the Committee there is an Associate Membership limited to 50 Members.

BACKSTAGE

Production Manager	.....	TONY BISHOP.
Stage Manager	.....	STEVE GATTUI.
Construction Manager	.....	GORDON PURCELL assisted by TONY BISHOP, VIC FRANCIS, GRAHAM GILBERT, TREVOR FOX, NICK DONNE.
Set Designed by	.....	CHRIS COOK.
Set Painted by	.....	JOAN STALLY, ANN FRANCIS, BENNY GOODMAN, IRENE JEFFREY, JULIA BISHOP, GAEL GOODMAN, TASNEEM NANJI.
Costumes by	.....	TASNEEM NANJI assisted by SHIRLEY BISHOP.
Properties	.....	JOAN STALLY assisted by ALTHEA KAMINJOLO.
Lighting Designed by	.....	BENNY GOODMAN assisted by VIC FRANCIS.
Sound	.....	TONY BISHOP.
Production Secretary	.....	JOAN STALLY.
Business Manager	.....	BRYAN EPSOM.
Publicity	.....	BRYAN EPSOM, TIM BUTCHARD.
Programme	.....	NICK DONNE.
Poster	.....	RAY CHARMAN, TED BOONTHANAKIT.
Front of House	.....	NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS COMMITTEE.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Nairobi City Players wish to thank all those persons whose help in many different ways has been of great assistance in this production