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*In that dread moment how the frantic soul
Raves round the walls of her clay tenement,
Runs to each avenue and shrieks for help,
But shrieks in vain.*

—Robert Blair: "The Grave."

A New Verse Play

by

BRIAN BERGIN

THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY DRAMATIC
SOCIETY

THE HUT
JUNE 18, 19, 20, 1953

FOREWORD



Nothing—you will be thinking—remains sacred. Here he is intruding himself even upon these few simple moments before the curtain rises and we are asked to bear with him through the two and a half hours' traffic of this evening's stage. Believe me when I say that I should not have had the temerity to attempt this premature intrusion had I not felt that here was an opportunity to record, in the least transitory of forms, something of the gratitude that I feel towards those who have made this production possible, towards the committee of A.U.D.S., which showed great faith, and, I might I say, no little courage, in backing "Clay Tenement," and towards a great many persons who individually have always been willing to advise, to counsel, and encourage.

I am only too conscious that all the good intentions in the world will have been to no avail if to-night we, the actors and myself, are unable to satiate your appetite for pleasure—to satisfy your desire—and, indeed, your right—to be pleased. Of the play itself, therefore, I shall say nothing, save that the action takes place within the space of one night in the crypt of a ruined church in a city which may be any city that is being ravaged by a civil war. The time is hard to define. What happens may have happened at some time in the past; the action may well have a significance in relation to that time in which we find ourselves at present; it is, however, more probably related to that time which is yet to come.

BRIAN BERGIN.

CAST

(in order of appearance)



Paul Robin Elix
Ruth Helen Jones
Mrs. Brady Prudence Ham
Jimmy Roland Parsons
Father Calverley Peter Wells
Llewellyn Keith Buckley

The play directed by:
Brian Bergin

The setting designed and executed by:
Philip Fargher and Brian Bergin

The lighting arranged by:
Lindsay Colquhuon

Sound effects and recording by:
Jim Bettison and Michael Pryce

The music:
Arnold Schonberg: Verklarte Nacht
(Kindly loaned by Mr. Theodore Ey)

There will be one interval of twelve minutes

The Producer
wishes to express his thanks to
the committee of the University
Theatre Guild for its ready
co-operation with regard to the
use of The Hut and of its
facilities and equipment.