THE YOUTH THEATRE

presents

HENRY V

By William Shakespeare

at

TOYNBEE HALL THEATRE

Commercial Street, E.1.

on

SEPTEMBER 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th

at 7.15 p.m.

Special Matinee:

SEPTEMBER 14th, at 2.30 p.m.

This initial production is sponsored by

The Daily Telegraph

Tickets: 10/6, 7/6, 5/-.
All seats bookable in advance

Application for tickets, and all enquiries should be made to:

The Youth Theatre,

5 Montagu Place, W.1. *Phone*: AMBassador 3990

Toynbee Hall is one of the best equipped and most comfortable theatres of its kind in the country. It is easily accessible by tube to Aldgate East and by the following bus services: 10, 23, 25, 78.

EARLY BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

The YOUTH THEATRE has been founded by Michael Croft, formerly Director of Drama at Alleyn's School, as a non-profit-making organisation, to encourage a better understanding and appreciation of drama amongst young people. In order to assist in the preliminary formation of the Theatre generous support has been given by The Daily Telegraph.

By staging productions during the school holidays, the Youth Theatre will give young people between the ages of 14 and 20, with a keen interest in drama, an opportunity of taking part in serious plays, thus enabling them to relate their classroom studies to the practical requirements of the theatre.

At the same time, the Youth Theatre will aim to set a standard of performance and presentation which will be of benefit to school and youth club productions in general.

In each production keen and talented young people will also be given a chance to provide decor, costumes, music, etc., to work on stage management and lighting, and to help in the general running of the Theatre. Thus, the work of the Youth Theatre will form an exercise in team spirit in its best and widest sense.

The actors will be chosen for qualities of sincerity, vitality and determination, rather than for slickness of performance. The Theatre will be non-professional in outlook, although where a young actor of exceptional promise appears he will be given whatever advice or assistance seems desirable.

It is hoped that sufficient financial support will be obtained to form the Youth Theatre into a national organisation, recruiting talent from schools all over the country. At present the Theatre is working on a limited scale. The first production, " Henry V " will be a means of showing the value of the Theatre's work. The cast consists entirely of London schoolboys, many of whom have taken part in Michael Croft's previous productions at Alleyn's School.

"As President of the Youth Theatre, I wish Michael Croft and all his players the greatest of good fortune in their courageous and worthwhile venture.

I feel that the Youth Theatre deserves the greatest support by young and old alike, for by encouraging young people to act in great plays, it not only increases their understanding of our playwrights but it will also create a greater enthusiasm for good drama amongst young people throughout the country."

—SIR RALPH RICHARDSON.

"The general plan of the Youth Theatre seems to me admirable. I feel that what you are going to do will be of such value that I am honoured that you should ask me to be a member of the General Committee."

—GLEN BYAM SHAW.

"Having had three memorable experiences of Michael Croft's special talent for inspiring schoolboys to act, I am delighted to hear that he has founded the Youth Theatre and wish it all good fortune."

—W. A. DARLINGTON.

"I should be delighted to support the Youth Theatre in any way I can."

RICHARD BURTON.

DONATIONS

THE YOUTH THEATRE is dependent entirely upon voluntary subscriptions for its complete establishment and continuance. To further its valuable work and thus ensure its ultimate development into a national organisation, your strong financial support is urgently required, for it is your generous response alone that will secure for the Youth Theatre a future deserving of its aims. Please give generously. Please give *NOW*!

PATRONS OF THE YOUTH THEATRE

THE RIGHT HON. LORD GORELL, C.B.E., M.C.

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(B.B.C.)

MICHAEL CROFT was Director of Drama at Alleyn's School from 1950-55, during which time his Shakespearean productions, with casts ranging from 70 to 150 boys, achieved a reputation far beyond the boundaries of the School. He created an enthusiasm for drama throughout the School and each year his productions attracted increasingly large audiences; excerpts from two productions were broadcast and televised. During this short period three of his pupils won major scholarships to study at R.A.D.A. and one of them gained first place in the English Festival of Spoken Verse in 1954 and the following year won the R.A.D.A. Silver Medal. Mr. Croft's main concern, however, was to communicate his own belief in the educational value of drama, and through the medium of his productions he gave hundreds of boys an experience at once communal and creative; by insisting on the equal importance to a production of every boy taking part, however humble the part might be, he gave his pupils an intense sense of partnership in something exciting and brought a new and positive interest into their lives. His aim in founding the Youth Theatre is to achieve the same object in a wider field.

The following are extracts from Press notices of his last production at Alleyn's School, "Henry IV, Part II.":—

THE TIMES

" . . . Considered as a school play it was a miracle. The standard of acting throughout the company admitted no comparison with the run of school productions . . . Mr. Croft offered a *Henry IV* that was in the best sense 'producer's' Shakespeare . . . "

DAILY TELEGRAPH

" . . . Virile and colourful, an extraordinarily brilliant production. There was style as well as zest about the acting."

NEWS CHRONICLE

"These productions have established such a standard of performance and presentation that it is difficult to remember that the actors are schoolboys, few of whom have any desire to make the stage their career."

TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

" . . . It would be hard to imagine a finer presentation of Shakespeare on any school stage. What was so striking was the size of the hard core of polished performers, not two or three as is usual at school, but 22 or 23. Mr. Croft had succeeded in instilling in the minds of his actors a feeling for Shakespeare's verse that would have done credit to many a Stratford performance. From Falstaff to Feeble the confident clarity of their speaking was a joy to hear . . . "

THE YOUTH THEATRE

5 MONTAGU PLACE, W.1.

Telephone: AMBassador 3990

President:
SIR RALPH RICHARDSON

Vice-Presidents:
GLEN BYAM SHAW, C.B.E.
(*Director*, The Shakespeare Memorial Theatre)

MICHAEL BENTHALL,
(Director, The Old Vic)

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