

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY THEATRE GUILD

It Depends . . .
What You Mean

By
JAMES BRIDIE



AT THE HUT
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY and FRIDAY
10th NOV., 11th NOV., 12th NOV., 13th NOV, 1953

A NOTE ON THE AUTHOR OF OUR PLAY

It Depends What You Mean is a very characteristic James Bridie play. Owing its military background to the date at which it was written, the play was produced in 1944 in London at the Westminster Theatre, where it ran for 189 performances.

James Bridie—his real names were Osborne Henry Mavor—was born a Scot in 1888 and enthusiastically remained a Scot to the end of his life. He became a doctor, served in that capacity in the 1914-18 war, after which he became a successful general practitioner. From his university days he was interested in the theatre, but it was not until his fortieth year that he had a play produced. This was in his native Glasgow.

An extremely prolific playwright in spite of a late start, his "principal" plays number 36. Among them are *The Anatomist*, *Tobias and the Angel*, *Jonah and the Whale*, *A Sleeping Clergyman* (probably his best), *Mr. Bolfray*, *Dr. Angelus* and *Daphne Laureola*—all original, wilful, odd and picturesque.

James Bridie was always obstinately himself. He was an enthusiast, a Scottish patriot, "a great enjoyer." An intellectual (but never, never a highbrow), he "liked brave shows, gallantries, ballads, mysteries and nonsense." He was full of relish for all the humours of mankind and created dozens of good parts for players—characters eccentric, bursting with life. And all of them talk twenty to the dozen. . . .

James Bridie died in 1951, still at the top of his form.

IT DEPENDS WHAT YOU MEAN

AN IMPROVISATION FOR THE GLOCKENSPIEL

CAST

ANGELA PROUT, B.A. IRIS HART
REV. WILLIAM PARIS, C.F. . . GORDON McDUGALL
GEORGE PROUT, R.O.I. BON MAGUIRE
JAMES MUTCH, D.Litt. GORDON TROUP
PTE. JESSIE KILLIGREW, A.T.S. - JANET COLQUHOUN
VISCOUNTESS DODD, D.B.E. - ELIZABETH CAMPBELL
JOE BYRES, M.P. WILLIAM CLARIDGE
HECTOR MACADAM, M.D., F.R.C.S., E.D., JACK TAGGART
PTE. WALTER GEIKIE, R.A.S.C. . . NORMAN DILLON

Produced by
ROY LEANEY

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Time: 1942

ACT I—George Prout's Studio.

Interval

ACT II—An Army Recreation Hut.

Interval

ACT III—Scene 1: The Army Recreation Hut.

Scene 2: The Studio.

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Scenery designed and executed by the Guild Stage Group.

The paintings used in the Studio Scene have been painted and kindly lent by FRANCIS ROY THOMPSON.

With *It Depends What You Mean*, the fifth production of the year, the Guild concludes its programme for 1953. The earlier productions were *Juno and the Peacock* (April), *The Cocktail Party* (May), *Fireworks in the Morning* (July), and Joanne Priest's *Three Ballets* (September-October).

Members will be informed by circular of the date of the Annual Meeting of the Guild and of the programme of plays proposed for 1954.