

**ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY  
THEATRE GUILD.**

**“THE  
PETRIFIED FOREST”**

*Robert Sherwood*

**AT THE HUT  
17th May,  
18th May,  
1944**

## THE THEATRE GUILD

The Theatre Guild has pleasure in opening its 1944 Season with "The Petrified Forest" by Robert Sherwood. This play is an excellent example of the better class modern American drama by one of the foremost contemporary playwrights, and, so far as is known, this Guild production is its first stage presentation in Australia.

At the end of the programme is given a tentative list of productions we hope to achieve during this year. It is the aim of the Committee to provide examples of the best in classical and modern drama, including Australian.

It is also the hope of the Committee to foster the project attempted last year, of presenting some stage performances suitable for children—a desirable and much needed cultural development in our city—and those who are concerned with this work will welcome discussion and suggestions.

Our small and experimental movement can thrive only with the full support of increasing membership, both of spectators and active workers. There are many other interesting facets of stage production besides acting; and as well as players, we can always find jobs for anyone who is interested in the functioning of the theatre. With the promise of a busy programme ahead of us, there will be plenty to do; and any willing helpers are asked to get in touch with the Honorary Secretary, Miss Enid Petrie.

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## THE AUTHOR

Robert Sherwood was born in New Rochelle, New York, in 1896. He was educated at Harvard and served in the First Great War with the Canadian Black Watch Regiment. In his literary work he has held considerable prominence for many years; being Editor of "Vanity Fair", 1919-20; Associate Editor of "Life", 1920-24; and for some time Editor of "Scribners". He was the first to raise film reviews to a high standard of published critiques.

His first play was "Road to Rome" (1926), and this has been followed by a number of outstanding successes, among which the better known are "Waterloo Bridge" (1930); "Idiot's Delight" (1936, Pulitzer Prize) and "There shall be no night" (1940). "Petrified Forest" was first performed in 1934.

In 1937 Sherwood was elected President of the Dramatists Guild of the Authors' League; in 1940 President of the American National Theatre and Academy—an organisation of considerable standing and chartered by Congress. At present he is Director of the Overseas Branch of the United States Office of War Information.

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THIS PLAY: The scene is the Black Mesa-B-Q, a gas station and lunch room at a lonely crossroads in the Eastern Arizona Desert.

The action begins late in the afternoon of an autumn day in 1934, and continues into the evening of the same day.

The play is in two acts. There will be an interval between the acts.

# "THE PETRIFIED FOREST"

Under the direction of Mr. Frank Day.

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## CAST:

(As we meet them)

First Linesman	- - - - -	Ray Lane
Second Linesman	- - - - -	George Spelbin
Bose Hertzlinger	- - - - -	Maurice O'Brien
Jason Maple	- - - - -	Sidney Downie
Gramp Maple	- - - - -	Frank Johnston
Gabby Maple	- - - - -	Enid Brown
Alan Squier	- - - - -	Hal Porter
Herb	- - - - -	Revett Cant
Mr. Chisholm	- - - - -	David Barnes
Mrs. Chisholm	- - - - -	Joan Matthews
Joseph (Chisholm's chauffeur)	- - - - -	O'Dell Crowther
Jackie	} Gangsters }	- John Hill
Ruby		- Frank Gargro
Duke Mantee		- Edgar Wise
Pyles		- Owen Evans
Paula (Cook)	- - - - -	Jess Lyne
Commander	- - - - -	Ken Matthews
Sheriff	- - - - -	Bruce Williams

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Stage Management	-	Barbara Howard
Assistant to Director	-	Janet Paine
Setting	- - - - -	Michael James
Lighting	- - - - -	Thomas Keen
Stage Assistants	-	Gwen Walsh and Jess Davis
Electrician	- - - - -	Herbert Kollosche

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The Committee expresses thanks to Mr. Brett Randall (Melbourne), for friendly co-operation in the matter of performing rights of this play; and to the Manager of the National Cash Register Co. for the loan of the cash register.

## UNIVERSITY THEATRE GUILD

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### Patrons:

Professors E. Harold Davies, J. I. M. Stewart, and  
J. G. Cornell, Dr. Chas. Fenner, Mr. Frank Johnston.

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### Committee:

Dr. T. D. Campbell	Miss Eliz. Michell
Mr. Sydney Downie	Mrs. Janet Paine
Mr. Brian Elliott	Miss Enid Petrie
Miss Patricia Hackett	Mr. Allan Sierp
Miss Barbara Howard	Miss C. Teesdale Smith
Mr. Herbert Kollosche	Miss Gwen Walsh
Mr. Roy Leaney	Mr. Bruce Williams
Dr. E. McLaughlin	Mrs. Roma Williams

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Communications and enquiries may be addressed to the Hon. Secretary,  
care University. Subscription (10/-) may be sent to the Hon. Treasurer,  
care University, or paid at The Hut on evenings of performances.

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### 1943 Guild Productions:

"MEDEA", "BALLETS AND DIVERTISSEMENTS", "TOM  
THUMB", "DAYBREAK", "L'INVITATION AU VOYAGE",  
"STORIES IN DANCE AND VERSE."

### Tentative List of Productions for 1944:

Middle May—"PETRIFIED FOREST"  
Early June—EVENING OF FOUR PERIOD PLAYS (Miss Patricia  
Hackett)  
Late June—STUDENT GROUP PRODUCTION  
July—EVENING OF ONE-ACT PLAYS  
August—FULL LENGTH PLAY (Mr. Frank Johnston)  
September—FULL LENGTH PLAY (Miss Barbara Howard)  
October—Congreve's "WAY OF THE WORLD" (Miss Patricia  
Hackett)  
November—IN ASSOCIATION WITH CONSERVATORIUM,  
PRODUCTION OF OPERA  
December—BALLET