

THEATRE WORKSHOP presents



THEATRE WORKSHOP was established in 1965 by Helen McNamara to encourage those interested in theatre to study and work in all aspects of theatre as she has done herself both in South Africa and England.

So far all productions under the name of Theatre Workshop have been produced by her and most of the leading local theatrical personalities have worked for Theatre Workshop at some time since its conception.

Point of Departure	1965
Come Blow Your Horn	1966
Becket	1966
Mrs. Gibbons Boys	1967
One for the Pot	1968
Richard III	1968
Boeing - Boeing	1969
Dry Rot	1969
A Hole in the Sky	1969



A NEW PLAY BY  
TONY  
ROBINSON

PRODUCED BY  
Helen  
McNAMARA

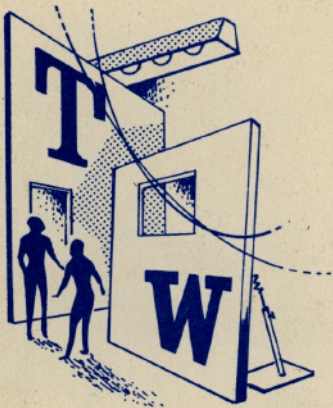




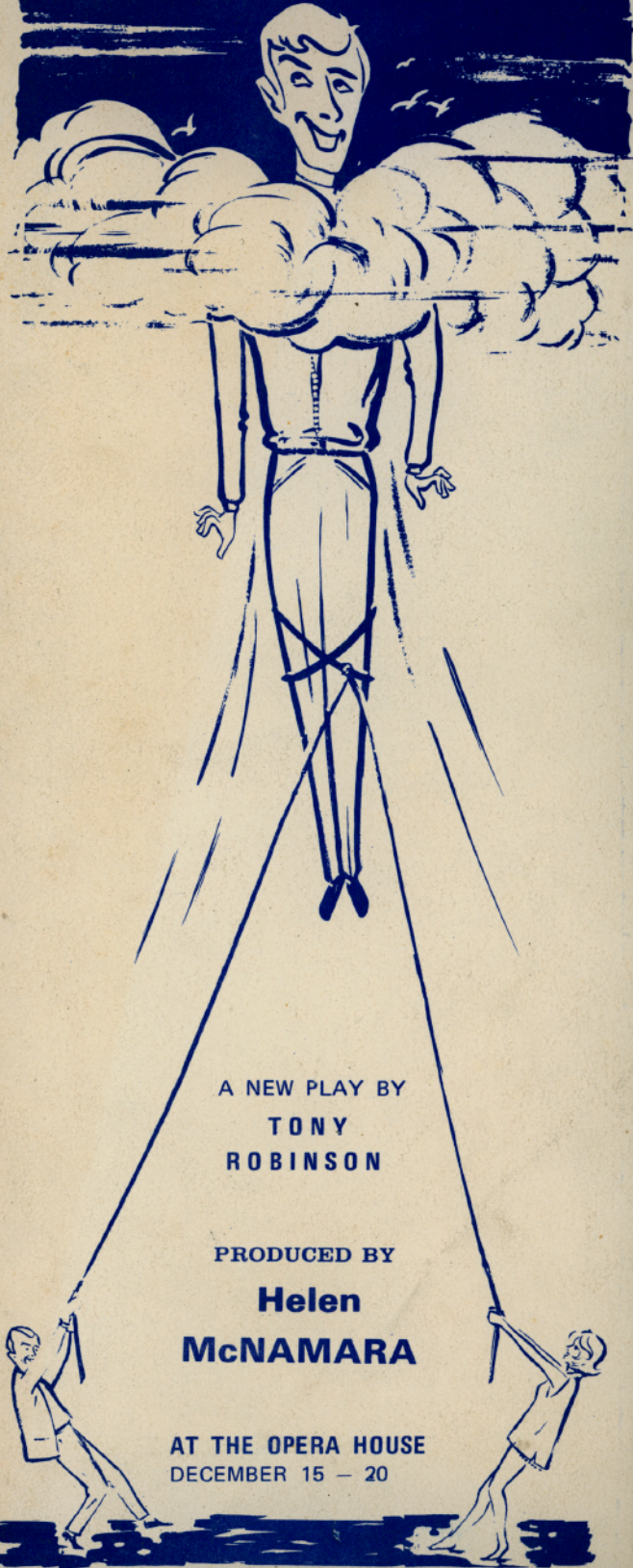
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# A HOLE in the SKY



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TONY  
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**Helen  
McNAMARA**

AT THE OPERA HOUSE  
DECEMBER 15 - 20

# AHOLE in the SKY

THE FIRST PERFORMANCE OF A NEW PLAY BY TONY ROBINSON

## PROLOGUE

The world has never been quite like it is today. It's expanding all the time. In fact it's expanding so fast that we even talk about "population explosions". Well, in this exploding world strange pressures bear down on people. And sometimes these pressures blast them up into the limelight. That's what happened to Sydney Stark. He awoke one morning and found the limelight shining in his face. An overnight sensation, as the popular Press would say. It's happening all the time. Pop singers suddenly become gods, corrupt the world a little and then disappear like flies in the winter.

In Stark's case it was rather more respectable. He wrote a play, quite a reasonable play, but nothing of great importance. But it was amusing and people liked it. He wrote another and then another and all of them were successful. But they were not very good plays. He didn't notice, of course: he was much too busy enjoying his success. And then, after three plays, he stopped to think. And he stopped writing. The lavish praise that had been heaped on him began to sound hollow. The elation, the sheer thrill of success was over. He's suffering now. He's experiencing what you might call a hangover.

But the important thing is that he deserves your sympathy. His problem isn't entirely of his own making. The spotlights of publicity have trapped him in a blaze of light. He's alone and he feels rather exposed.



Tony Robinson was born in Port Elizabeth. He learnt to write dialogue during a 4 year period on the production staff of Springbok Radio and his theatrical education began in Port Elizabeth.

In 1968 he played small parts in local productions of "The Caine Mutiny Court Martial" and "Richard III" and in the same year he wrote his first stage show - "To Blazes with Modesty". He says he learnt a great deal during the production of this popular show and

## CAST in order of appearance

Luke Venter . . . . Rufus Geel  
Max Bester . . . . Carl de Gouveia  
Sydney Stark . . . . John Burch  
Samantha Louw . . . Jandy Offerman  
Dr. Judy Mentor . . . Helen McNamara

Produced and Directed by Helen McNamara

*The action of the play takes place in the lounge of a holiday home situated on the banks of a tidal river in the Eastern Cape.*

*Time: The present.*

ACT I Scene I Sundowner time.  
Scene II 4 a.m. on the following day.  
Scene III Late morning of the same day.  
ACT II Scene I Mid afternoon ten days later  
Scene II A short while later.

*There will be an interval of 15 mins. between ACTS I and II.*

Set design and decor by . . . . Dick Strachan  
Assisted by . . . . . Jenny Nicholl  
Set constructed by . . . . . John Peace,  
Ray Webber,  
Tony Robinson  
Bill Kemp  
Stage Manager . . . . . John Peace  
Prompt . . . . . Pat Allison  
Props . . . . . Naomi Solomons  
Pat Peace  
Jenny Nicholl  
Peta Lange  
Lighting designed and  
executed by . . . . . George von Molendorff  
Special theme music composed  
and played by . . . . . Clem Tholet  
Photographs . . . . . Robert Owen

*Theatre Workshop gratefully acknowledges:*

*Hallis for the loan of ornaments and rugs  
Lighting by the Lighting Division of G.E.C. - A.E.I.  
of South Africa (Pty.) Ltd.  
Cane and Wickerwork for cane furniture*

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Tony Robinson is perhaps best known to Port Elizabethans as the "Walrus" and his daily column in the Herald enjoys a wide readership.

CAST in order of appearance

- Luke Venter . . . . Rufus Geel
- Max Bester . . . . Carl de Gouveia
- Sydney Stark . . . . John Burch
- Samantha Louw . . . Jandy Offerman
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- The Surf Shop. Lishers Sports.*
- United Tobacco Co.*
- Wicker Bar by Weinronks.*