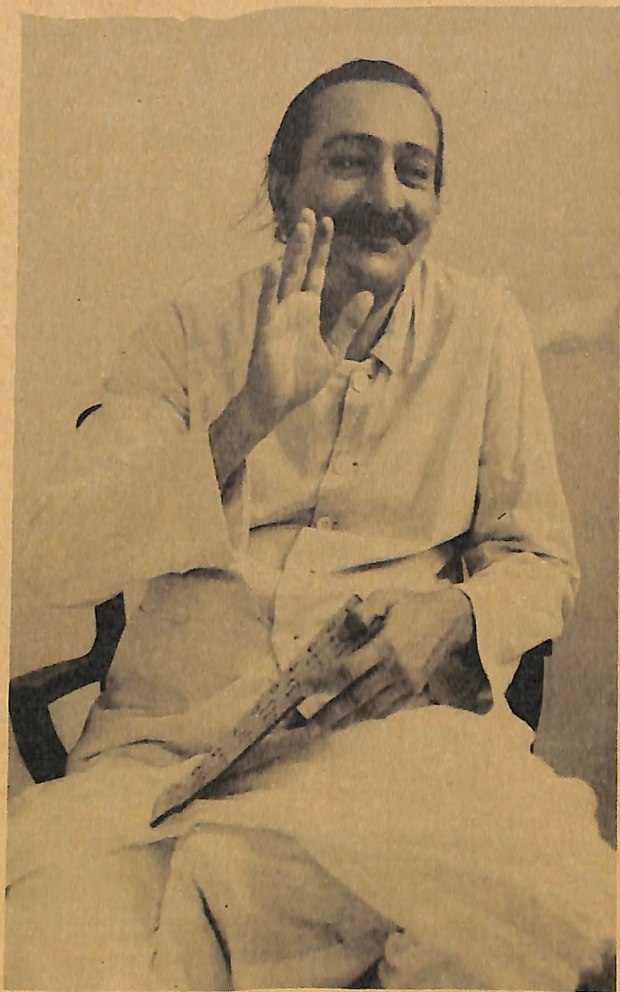


3 original comedians



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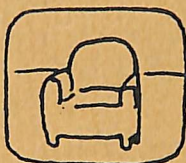
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"The drama of the continued life of the individual soul has many acts. The actors disappear from the stage of earth only to reappear again in new capacities and new contexts....unconscious of the closely-guarded truth that the Author of the drama, in His imaginative production, Himself became all the actors and played the game of hide and seek in order to come into full and conscious possession of His own creative infinity."

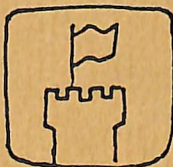
Meher Baba

To honor the 5th Anniversary
of Meher Baba's physical death,
Meher Players of Chicago Present

3 Original Comedies



The Chairs



The Queen

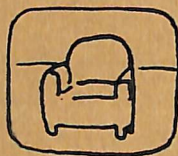


The Secretary

Thursday, January 31st 1974, 7:30 P.M.

218 South Wabash Avenue
~ 9th floor theater ~

1-702667



The Chairs - a comedy

CAST (in order of appearance)

Mime.....Marc Brutus
Throne.....Philip Lutgendorf
Stool.....Robin Reitzes
Bench.....Douglas Makeig
Swivel chair.....Ellis Pines
Pew.....Susan Lutgendorf
Male barstool.....Rob Tomaro
Female barstool.....Cookie Schefris
Guruprasad chair*.....Victor Seckeler

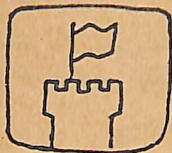
(*Guruprasad was a large old bungalow belonging to the Maharani of Baroda, and located in Poona, the city of Meher Baba's birth. During the last years of his physical work on earth, Meher Baba made yearly visits to Poona during the summer months, and at these times he and his disciples stayed in Guruprasad.)

Written by Ellis Pines

Directed by Philip Lutgendorf

Lighting design by Tom Preston

(David Miotke will present a musical interlude between
THE CHAIRS and THE QUEEN)



The Queen — a tragicomedy

CAST (in order of appearance)

Herald.....Philip Lutgendorf
Time.....Chris Hudson
Memory.....Rob Tomaro
Pain.....Victor Seckeler
Number.....Kathy Makeig
Lord Secretary.....Marc Brutus
Queen Maya*.....Robin Reitzes
Confusion.....Douglas Makeig
Doubt.....Bill Havilland
News.....Rich Goldman
Pride.....Philip Lutgendorf
Limited Intellect**.....Norm Don

(*Maya: in Eastern philosophy, the Principle of Ignorance. Meher Baba has called Maya, "...the Master-illusionist, who produces seemingly existent worlds out of Nothing," and, "...the infinite shadow of God's infinity.")

**By "limited intellect" is meant that aspect of mind which, though suited to know all sorts of splendid things about creation, is incapable of knowing God, or Truth. No insult is intended to intelligence in the highest sense.)

Written and directed by Ellis Pines

Lighting design by Tom Preston

Stage design by Philip Lutgendorf

Scene 1: The battlements of the castle of Queen Maya;
Friday, January 31st 1969; morning

Scene 2: The Great Court of Maya; later that morning

Scene 3: The same; 11:00 AM

Scene 4: The same; 11:45 AM

Scene 5: The same; 12:16 PM

- INTERMISSION -

Robin Reitzes (Queen Maya) graduated with a degree in theater from the University of California at Santa Cruz. At school, she appeared in a number of Greek and Shakespearean dramas, and also directed and starred in "The Harmony Grits Happy Hour," a unique revue modeled after 1930s radio programs. Since coming to Chicago in 1972, Robin has acted in "The White Whore and the Bit Player" at the Barry Street Theater, and "Enter Laughing" with the Old Town Players.

Meher Players wish to thank Sheldon's Art & Drafting Supplies for the donation of materials used in costumes and sets.



The Secretary - a comedy of discipleship

The secretary.....Carolyn Brenner

Scene: An office

Time: The present

Written by Philip Lutgendorf

Directed by Ellis Pines

Lighting and special effects by Tom Preston

Carolyn Brenner was a successful Broadway and television actress before leaving stage and screen to found the Tikvah Institute for Childhood Learning Disabilities. Meher Players are honored by Miss Brenner's guest appearance as the Secretary.

Miss Brenner appeared on Broadway in ten productions, toured the country in road versions of numerous shows, and acted in more than 150 television dramas. In the mid-1950s her career took her to a summer stock theater in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. There she came in contact with a number of followers of Meher Baba, and appeared in a production of "Separate Tables" directed by C.B. Purdom, author of Meher Baba's biography The God-Man. Also appearing in this production were Kitty Davy and Jayne Barry Haynes.

While acting as Myrna Loy's standby in the Chicago production of "Barefoot in the Park," Miss Brenner became interested in finding a service outlet for her energies. This led to the creation of Tikvah Institute, a unique non-denominational school for children with learning disabilities. The school, located at 237 E. Grand, combines specialized instruction tailored to each child's learning problems, with a deep concern for the child as a person. A number of Chicago area lovers of Meher Baba are among the volunteer Tikvah Big Brothers and Sisters - counselors at the one-Sunday-a-month Tikvah Youth Center, a social and recreational program for children with learning disabilities.

For more information about the school and its programs, call 751-0371.

Meher Players wish to thank the Illinois Bell Telephone Company for assistance with props.

~ Meher Baba ~

Meherwan Sheriar Irani, known to the world as Meher Baba, passed away on January 31st, 1969, in his 75th year. For nearly fifty years Meher Baba had tirelessly carried out a many-faceted work in the world. He had fed and clothed the poor, and bowed down to them to affirm the dignity of God in every person. He had bathed lepers, and bowed before them too, calling them "beautiful birds in ugly cages." He had established schools, ashrams, and hospitals, in both the East and the West, and within them abolished all distinctions based on caste, creed, and race. He taught above all by example, showing the way to a life of love and service within the limitations of the world. These were some aspects of his external work - carried on in silence, for Meher Baba observed unbroken physical silence from 1925 until his death.

Along with his external activity, he performed another kind of work, which often required long fasts and periods of seclusion. This, Baba termed his "universal work" - work within the framework of consciousness itself; work on the dazzling planes of energy and mind, which fall within the realm of the unconscious for most human beings. This was a work of planting seeds for future growth and creativity - for a new humanity on earth. This work occupied much of his attention during the last years of his life, and those who lived with him saw the toll it took on him, reflected in his exhaustion and physical suffering.

In July of 1968, Meher Baba announced that his work was finished and that its results would soon begin to manifest in the world. His physical death six months later came as a complete surprise to those closest to him; to his disciples it seemed that he had slipped away imperceptibly, "like the stars at the approach of dawn." For his "lovers" - people around the world whose lives had been touched by him - a new era had begun. Not a new era as the world reckons them, of some advance in science or government, but an era of looking within one's heart to find God, who had already introduced Himself to man as the Beloved, Meher Baba; for as he had repeatedly taught, the heart is his only real abode.

Those who were close to Meher Baba during his lifetime, and many thousands who have come into contact with him since his physical death, believe him to be as he himself asserted, the Avatar, or God-Man; the periodic manifestation of God in human form. However, they are not concerned with whether others accept or reject Meher Baba as Avatar. Meher Baba stated:

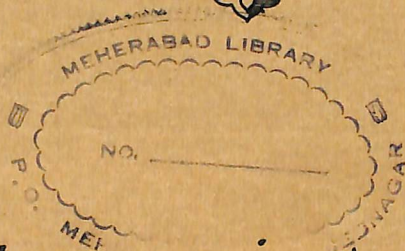
"I am not come to establish any cult, society, or organi-

zation, nor even to establish a new religion. The religion that I shall give teaches the Knowledge of the One behind the many. The book that I shall make people read is the book of the heart, that holds the key to the mystery of life. I shall bring about a happy blending of the head and the heart. I shall revitalize all religions and cults, and bring them together like beads on one string."

Though centers have at times been set up to make available information concerning Meher Baba to those who desire it, the information once acquired can only be a tool for the individual to forge his or her own path back to God, for there is no one, set way to follow or love Meher Baba.

An information center dedicated to Meher Baba has recently opened in the Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Avenue, room 1025. It is open Monday through Thursday evenings from 7 to 10 PM, and Saturday afternoons from 2 to 6 PM. Books and other literature are available there. General information meetings are held Mondays at 7:30 PM.

Meher Players of Chicago is an amateur theater company emphasizing original entertainments that explore humanity's awakening to inner values and living them in everyday life. Meher Baba stressed that his work would have a creative and revitalizing impact on many areas, including the theater.



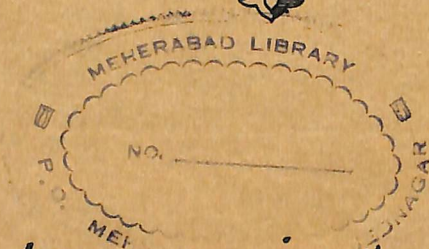
We hope you enjoy the show!

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