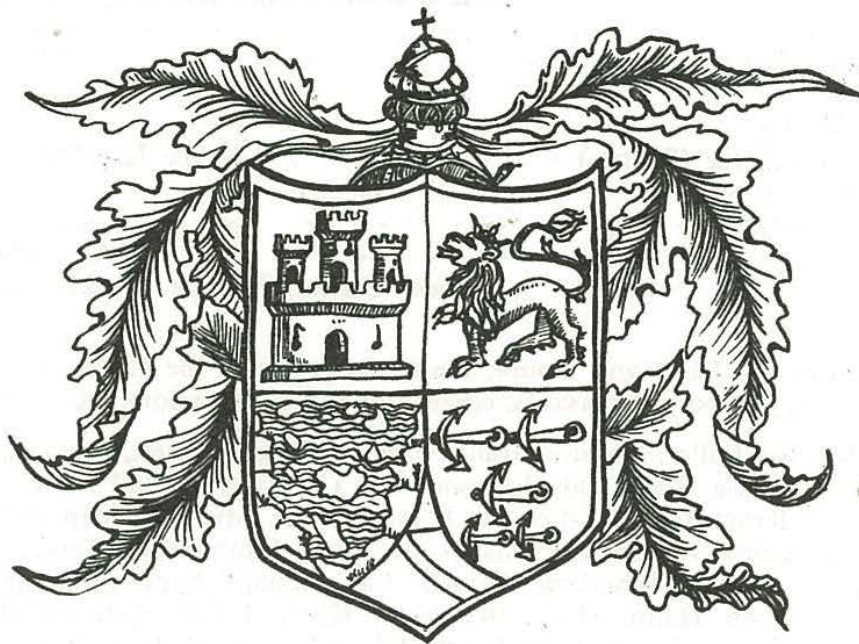


Real Right  
01

HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL PLAYERS

present

CHRISTOPHER  
**COLUMBUS**



*by Louis MacNiece*

7.30 p.m.  
THE GREAT HALL

TUESDAY,  
13th DECEMBER, 1960

## CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Doubt and Faith - - - - -	Margaret Arakie and Mary Land
Portuguese Merchants - - - - -	Timothy Walsh, Peter Wigan, Jonathan Baker
Bartolome (Sailor) - - - - -	Adrian Freeland
Carlos (Sailor) - - - - -	Gordon Godenho
Francisco - - - - -	Reuben Pereira
Brother Pedro - - - - -	Leslie Sommer
Prior of La Rabida Monastery - - - - -	Hovanes Avakian
Christopher Columbus - - - - -	Luath Grant-Ferguson
Heralds - - - - -	Neel Uberoi, John Robbins
Talavera, Bishop of Avila - - - - -	Robert Bardwell
Duke of Medina-Sidonia - - - - -	Michael Wykeham
Duke of Medina Celi - - - - -	Keith Lawrence
Mendoza, Grand Cardinal of Spain - - - - -	Peter Claydon
Marquesa - - - - -	Susan Dornhorst
Queen Isabella - - - - -	Beverley Thompson
Tapstress - - - - -	Pat Fuller
Fishermen - - - - -	Aziz Kurtha, Henry Kennedy, Paul Richardson
Town Crier - - - - -	Ian Hardman
Miguel (Ship's Storekeeper) - - - - -	Michael George
Ibram (Sailor) - - - - -	Colin Prescod
Sanchez (Sailor) - - - - -	Arun Shah
Andres and Guttierrez (Sailors) - - - - -	Kerry Jewel and Paul Allen
Yves (a Gromet) - - - - -	Yves Shama
Escovedo (a Notary) - - - - -	Launcelot Sucharov
Peasant - - - - -	Algernon Sucharov
Tainos - - - - -	Gerald Clarke, Horace Clarke, Kamral Dean

Chorus of Faith and Doubt, the Spanish Court, the Court of the  
Commission, peasants, citizens of Granada, sailors, etc.:

Anna Bowden, Pat Fuller, Deirdre Grant-Ferguson, Susan Annett, Tessa van Gelderen,  
Kathleen Stevens, Ria Hoch, Judy Johnson, Mei Lang Ng, Jonquil Naish, Susan Ross,  
Lucy Alliston, Revel Heath, Michelle Honey, Lynn Murrell, Joan Osborne, Jane  
Preece, Linda Quint, Joanna Robbins, Anne Scott, Edith Scott, Teresa Strzemecka,  
Susan Taylor, Christine Woodruff, Himani Lal, Donald Anderson, Gilbert Cozens,  
Michael Carr, John Haim, Henry Kennedy, Kerry Jewel, Federico Reyna, John  
Robins, Fransico Sisto, Algarnon Sucharov, Julian Yearwood, Jesus Vincente, Pat Bee,  
Pat Carter, Pat Haim, Manuel Mareno, Eric Briggs, David Gilroy.

### SCENES

Lisbon—a Spanish tavern—La Rabida monastery—the Court at Barcelona—the  
Monastery of St. Stephen—Streets of Granada.

### INTERVAL

Palos Harbour—on board the “Santa Maria”—the island of San Salvador—the  
Spanish coast—the Court at Barcelona.

## FOREWORD

At the close of the 15th Century, the general mood in Western Europe was one of disillusion and cynical pessimism. Within the Catholic Church, divided by the Great Schism, a Borgia Pope suppressed reforms; Constantinople had been taken by the Turks; the Crusades had failed to recapture the Holy Places at Jerusalem; the Holy Roman Empire was cracking through internal dissensions; and Savonarola was preaching that the Day of Judgment was near. In Portugal and Spain, however, there were signs of new life. From Portugal, Henry the Navigator's sailors were exploring the west coast of Africa and the Azores; and to Spain, exuberant after defeating the Moors at Granada, returned Columbus from a great enterprise that was to give a new vision of the future and enlarge the scope of human speculation.

Born in Genoa, 1451, into a family of woolweavers, Columbus took to the sea while still a boy. Shipwrecked off Portugal in 1476, he gained valuable experience in navigation and chart-making on Portuguese voyages to West Africa, Ireland and Iceland. Some claim that in Iceland he learned of lands to the west; but popular sailors' myths and ancient authors had long described western islands. In 1474, a Florentine astronomer, Toscanelli, was already devising charts for reaching Marco Polo's spice lands in the east by sailing west to Asia. To the last, Columbus kept secret the immediate source of his passionate belief in a western route, though his notebooks show detailed, if inaccurate, calculations of the distances involved, over years of careful preparation of material in defence of his theory. It was his under-estimation of the great distance to Asia that later misled him into believing the islands he discovered lay off the Asian continent. Inspired by a mixture of missionary zeal and a desire for wealth, Columbus became convinced that he could reach the gold paradise of Japan, Cathay and the realm of the Great Khan. But though he married into one of the first families of Portugal, he found no support. Embittered, he arrived in Spain in 1485. The events of the next seven years are necessarily telescoped in the play, but in essence they are faithful to history.

Columbus left Palos, 3rd August, 1492, and landed on his first island in the Bahamas 12th October. In further exploration, the *Santa Maria* was wrecked, but the *Nina* and the *Pinta* reached Spain again, 15th March, 1493. It should not be forgotten that Columbus' equipment was little more than a primitive quadrant, a compass, an hour glass, an inaccurate method of estimating his sailing speed—and a truculent, mutinous crew of fifty on a leaking ship.

Three more voyages followed. But after the death of his staunch patron, Queen Isabella, in 1504, Columbus lost favour at Court. He had been unable to bring back the promised fabulous riches of Cathay which had been King Ferdinand's main interest in the voyages. He died 20th May, 1506, racked with arthritis, possessed of titles without wealth, still claiming to have reached Asia, not knowing he had opened up a new continent which was to take its name from a successor, Amerigo Vespucci. Little more than a hundred years after the discovery, the use of tobacco had spread throughout the Western world, despite the opposition of the Church. As a gift from the New World to the Old, it—and the potato—proved more lasting perhaps than gold.

The Players are indebted to the B.B.C. for their kind permission to perform this play. Some adaptation was necessary to transfer this radio play to the stage. The only substantial cuts, however, are the scenes between Columbus and Beatriz, mother of Columbus' son, Ferdinand, to whom posterity is indebted for information about his father's life and voyages.

## CREDITS

Sets designed by G. W. Koop and painted by Staff and Pupils of the Art Department.

Sets constructed by H. Edwards and pupils of the Technical Department assisted by S. Barras and Technical Staff.

Stage Management and Properties - - - - - P. Fozzard, T. Moloney

Stage Technicians - - Alan Beck, Colin Bedingfield, Robin Boucher, Horace Clarke, Gilbert Cozens, John Gardiner, David Gilbert, Thomas Hurley, Colin Lovell, Andrew McConnell, Robert Meads, Richard Owens, Neil Poppmacher, Douglas Puddifoot, Brian Ridgeway, Wilson Tambyradah, Julian Yearwood

Lighting - - - - - H. Edwards, S. Barras, W. Phillips, B. Thomas

Effects - - - - - B. Whitton

Make-up - - - - - T. De Heck, B. Whitton, W. McDermott  
Pat Bourke, Janine Lal, Maureen O'Neil, Vivienne Robb, Hilary Simon

Wardrobe Assistance - - - L. Barrett and Girls of Needlework Department  
with Patricia Denny, Hazel Trowell, Christine Wheeler

Laundering and Catering for the Players - - J. Robertson, Staff and Pupils of  
Housecraft Dept.

House Management - - - - - D. Brimacombe, V. Jacobs

Stewards - - - - - Members of Staff and Senior Students

Posters - - - - - B. Goodwin

Musical Assistance - - - - - L. Reynell

Photography - - - - - R. Smith and Pupils of Photographic Department

Public Relations - - - - - L. Stedman Jones

Continuity - - - Pat Yeomanson, Elizabeth Hildebrand, Philippa Richardson

Repetiteurs - - - - - P. Myers, P. Fozzard

Players' Secretaries - - - - - Beverley Thompson, Nigel Houghton

Produced by D. C. ELDRED assisted by M. WORTHINGTON

Apart from these acknowledgments, the Players express appreciation to the Headmaster for his support and wish to thank members of Staff, Pupils, the School Secretary, the Schoolkeeper and his Staff for their help. The Players warmly thank Mr. H. Edwards for constructing the stage model

### Productions by the Players

Birthday, a Tribute to Shakespeare ... ..	April, 1959
Murder in the Cathedral ... ..	Dec., 1959
A Roof of Cats (T. S. Eliot)... ..	June, 1960