NEW THEATRE REVIEW

WORDS CAN BE BULLETS

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PRICE SIXPENCE
Australian Artists and Writers Say:

On page 4, "New Theatre Review" prints a report of the recent "Artists' Front to Win the War" meeting in America. We feel that such a meeting, and indeed the growing activity of artists in the democracies, demands that we not only welcome such a move, but look forward to a similar Win-the-War Front of artists in Australia. With this in mind, in response to a request for a variety of fields of comment on the proposal, here are some of the replies we have received so far; we welcome more.

KATHARINE SUSANNAH PRICHARD, leading Australian novelist and member of the Fellowship of Australian Writers, says in the "frontstreet of anti-fascist activity, writers:

I have heard of the Artists' Front to Win the War in America, and think a similar organisation would be of value in Australia to unite the cultural forces of our country, opposed to fascism. Mayakovsky, the great Soviet poet, indicated how powerful the influence of writers and artists can be when it is directed towards the service of a great cause. To defeat fascism and win the war for a reconstruction of society which will carry our desire for progress, should be the objective of any intelligent man and woman, these days.

I would give my wholehearted support to an organisation of artists formed for this purpose.

ARMSTRONG, world-famous cattlemen of the Melbourne "Ar-

gon," comments:

In these critical days artists are the representatives of democracy's culture and ideals. They express on paper and canvas and in pictures what we should all have a duty to add their voice and influence their colleagues in the achievement of art and civilisation.

Our efforts in this struggle must be intensified so that the Nazi system is overwhelmed by the joint action of the Allies-Russia in the East and Britain and America in the West. The task is urgent.

D. COLOQUHOUN, one of Aus-

tralia's best-known painters, says:

In war time the necessity for keeping up the standards of art is even greater than in times of peace. So many things tend to lower the dignity and consequently the morale of a people as war that for those who practice the arts there is an added respons-
bility. The survival of our culture is linked with our continued freedom as a people.

The New Theatre seems to appre-

ciate the fact that the men and women of the forces are the same citizens who liked good art before the war, and that now they have greater need of it than ever.

GEORGE FARWELL, well-known short-story writer, author of radio drama, literary critic for the A.B.C., member of the editorial board of "Progress" telegraph:

ALL ARTISTS SHOULD WEL-

COME PROPOSAL IF VALUE ART

MUST DEFEND AGAINST FAS-

CIST BARBARISM. HAVE DUTY

TO HELP RALLY PEOPLE TO

FULL WAR EFFORT.

EDUARD BOROVSKY, Aus-

tralia's leading exponent of classical ballet, says:

Ballet plays a very important part in the cultural life of the peoples of the world. In Australia, despite the war, the interest in ballet is growing rap-

didly, although even the dancer themselves are engaged in war work and can only give a certain amount of their time. The ballet is an integral part of the future of Ballet. Most of Australia's artists are doing their part in the tremendous struggle to win the war, we have no command of Australian ballet is absolutely necessary to art, as without it the individual creative effort cannot flourish. Australians are beginning to realise that Ballet, like all the other fine arts, is International. It is the cultural expression of all nations. It should be a blessing to all men and appreciate ballet—not just in Australia. We are privileged to the few. With this fact ever before me, I look forward with great hope to the time when Aus-

tralians will share the same feeling for ballet as we have after the Russian people.

DR. A. E. FLOYD, well-known Mel-

bourne organist and musical leader, comments:

An artist who was not ready to resist Fascism with all his might would be a traitor to his own cause. For an artist, whether he be a writer, painter, musi-
cian or dramatist, is primarily con-

cerned with the creation and the pre-

sentation of truth and beauty—truth untarnished and beauty uncorrupted—
and these the fascists cannot tolerate. He deliberately sets out to destroy both them and their makers.

The artist and on the assumption that man cannot live by bread alone;

food for the body is necessary, and we

must see to that nobody lacks it; but the

mind and the spirit also need nourishment, and the artist, if he is true to his calling, can supply this need in a unique degree. The fascists have been fed on ugliness and lies; he is art's inveterate enemy. The artist, whether in drama, music, painting or literature, is the willing bond-servant of truth and beauty; for these he begets and works, and in defense of these, when neces-

sary, he will be ready to fight.

DR. REG. ELLERTY, psychiatrist and welfare worker of "Mask in the Soviet Union" comments:

The credo of the Australian "Artists' Front to Win the War" that "Artists are the spokesmen of democracy's culture and ideals, which Hitler has sworn to destroy, and that we have a responsi-
bility to act and speak now, when these auditions issued in such mortal danger", seems to me to be an inspiration.

to the nations of the world, the free world and the world already over-

run by fascists. The full realisation of this by Australian writers can only help to make our war effort more effective.

NORMAN BARKES, well-known radio commentator, says:

We all realise that the most im-

portant thing we have to do is to win the war against fascism. Soldier-

factory workers, farmers, everyone seems to be organized for that effort. The artists of Australia should be, too, for the same cause, and although much has been done by those, more must be done by them, as by ever so effective a weapon.

HAZEL JAMES, brilliant ym A.B.C. conductor, comments:

I was one of the few who could become a freedom-fighter who fascists was able to destroy or conquer.

writers, painters, must unite to do everything possible in the most e-


tive way, for the successful prosecution of this war against fascism.

Our Cover

The cover of "New Theatre" is a fine one by Margaret 

Moss, adapted from a design by William Greppi, famous for his work with comic art.