

pools of light where they were most effective and allowing for sunlit and moonlit scenes.

"It's no use having the whole stage brilliantly lit because, as in nature, there is always a shadow somewhere. A light of low power may be used for an actor entering a scene, changing to flood as he reaches the centre of action. To illuminate a piece of scenery representing a hill or a crag at night-time, lights are placed at the back, giving a misty touch with green, blue and magenta. To draw the eyes of the audience to a table or some other piece of property where action is going on, a 'baby' spot can be used."

Another part of the producer's job is to see that stage properties are made up correctly to period and ready for use when required. After that the stage manager takes over and then it's up to him. "If, as in many operas, one player has to threaten another with a dagger, then he must have that dagger in his hand, or deposited in some known place where he can find it. In the latter instance, the sword, dagger, musket or whatever is wanted for the deed, comes within the category of 'discovered' properties, as against those in positions obvious to audience and players alike."

Mr. Beeby added that the scenery for *Carmen* had been made specially high so that the curtain could be raised to its limit, giving people in the gallery an uninterrupted view. Minor headaches for the producer include such problems as the acquisition of quantities of the correct make-up, while the costuming for *Carmen* is such a big item that it has taken some weeks to manufacture just the epaulettes for the soldiers. Mr. Beeby has already visited Dunedin, where the opera opens on May 27, to look over the rehearsals. He will also visit each of the other centres to be played.

Forty members of the National Orchestra of the NZBS and a chorus of 65 will take part in this season's *Carmen*. The minor principals will be the Dunedin singers Bryan and Dora Drake (who are cousins), playing Escamillo and Micaela.

Dates for "Carmen"

Between Thursday, May 27, and Saturday, September 4, there will be 32 public presentations of *Carmen* in New Zealand, under the direction of the NZBS. The dates of performances have now been fixed. They are: His Majesty's Theatre, Dunedin—May 27 and 29, and June 1, 3, 5, 8, 10 and 12; Theatre Royal, Christchurch—June 24, 26 and 29, and July 1, 3, 6, 8 and 10; Grand Opera House, Wellington—July 22, 24, 27, 29, 31, and August 3, 5 and 7; His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland—August 19, 21, 24, 26, 28, 31, and September 2 and 4.

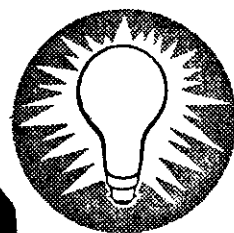
Carmen will be broadcast from 4YA on Tuesday, June 1, and Saturday, June 12; from 3YA on Tuesday, June 29, and Saturday, July 10; from 1YA on Tuesday, August 24, and Saturday, September 4. During the Wellington season Station 2YD will broadcast a portion of the opera on Thursday, July 29, and on Saturday, July 31, Station 2YA will broadcast the complete performance. Station 2YC will also broadcast the whole opera on Saturday, August 7.

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