

PLAYWRIGHTS

A COURSE FOR N.Z. PLAYWRIGHTS

A course for playwrights, organised by the Regional Council of Adult Education, in association with the British Drama League, is being held over Queen's Birthday weekend.

It will be conducted under the tutorship of John V. Trevor (well-known as an actor, producer and drama tutor) and Eric Bradwell (experienced in many aspects of drama, and well known as a dramatic critic). The director of the course will be Miss Olga Harding, President of the British Drama League.

The course will cover three days—June 1, 2 and 3—and will be residential, at Frederic Wallis House, Lower Hutt. Vacancies are limited, as the total enrolment is to be not more than 25. There will be a small number of vacancies for non-residential members.

The approach will be varied, working through practical reading and discussion, study of an actual play, lectures and discussion, and work in groups. All aspects of playwriting will be covered.

Enrolments close on Wednesday, May 29. Further particulars may be had from the Director, Regional Council of Adult Education, 192 Tinakori Road, Wellington.

This is an unusual opportunity for those interested in playwriting to study the subject under qualified tutors, and to discuss problems with other playwrights.



LISTENERS who are following the exploits of Sidney James as the wide boy in *Hancock's Half Hour*, and filmgoers who have seen him in any of his many film parts, might find it rather hard to believe

NO COCKNEY that he isn't a Cockney. With the accent, dry wit and all he seems to behave quite naturally as the Londoner born and bred. The fact is, though, that until about 11 years ago Sidney had not set foot in England, let alone London. Still

Open Microphone

a little on the right side of the mid-40s, he was born in Johannesburg. It's not surprising that he should end up a star of radio and films, for both his parents were vaudeville actors, though Sidney himself started out as a diamond polisher. Looking back he sums it up as "a very difficult trade and a very boring one." Sidney wasn't the boy to take boredom lying down, so when he could he varied his working life with spells of stevedoring, coal-heaving and boxing.

After serving in an anti-tank unit during the war, Sidney James went to England to make his way as an actor. He tried his hand first at burlesque, then in 1947 got his first film part in *Night Beat*. With a special talent for portraying pugnacious character parts, he has appeared since then in something like 30 films. One of his most recent shown in New Zealand was *Trapeze*, in which he plays a man trying to sell two full-grown pythons. Telling the *Radio Times* about his experiences while working on this film, he recalled how "three times those snakes got round my neck and had to be

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS ON AND OFF THE RECORD

son for many years. During this time he helped many radio enthusiasts and gave much encouragement to local talent. In 30 years spent in Hamilton, before he retired to live at Tauranga, Mr Anchor was active also in the Church and local organisations; and he was an outstandingly successful bowler.

★

"I DO not like to talk about myself," said Princess Gourielli—better known as Madame Helena Rubinstein—when we met her in Auckland not long ago. Madame Rubinstein, who is in her 80s, told us this wasn't her first

RETURN VISIT

visit to New Zealand—she was here about 40 years ago. Although tired after a flight from Australia that afternoon, Madame Rubinstein was most interesting and charming when telling us about her work and her four lovely homes: a penthouse in Park Lane, New York; an old mill redecorated just out of Paris; a house in Grasse, in the South of France; and a new home in London which she intends to furnish with the beautiful Oriental-style furniture she bought on her recent visit to Hong Kong.

After starting to train as a doctor, which she hated—"every time I went into the operating theatre I fainted"—Madame Rubinstein took up chemistry, and even today spends a good deal of her time in the laboratories working on cosmetic preparations. She is still studying and wisely says: "The more one knows the less one doesn't know." Extremely interested in paintings, she helps to further the studies of young artists by awarding an annual scholarship. She herself has an extensive collection of paintings in each of her homes. Madame

Rubinstein has been heard from several stations recently in a *Women's Session* interview.

★



MARIE JONES and ROLAND REDSHAW, two popular announcers at 4ZB, were married at All Saints' Church, Invercargill, a few weeks ago. Here they are seen leaving the church. Marie was born in Invercargill, and she was Shopping Reporter at 4ZA when the Invercargill Commercial station first opened last year.

dragged off." And he added: "Funny the things some people will do to earn a bob or two."

★

LISTENERS throughout the Waikato heard with regret recently of the death of J. S. Anchor, a pioneer of radio in the district. He was aged 78. Mr Anchor settled in Hamilton 37 years ago and established first a radio business and later a broadcasting station, 12H, which he ran with his

THE idea that the harpsichord is a dry and clattering old survivor should by now have been dispelled, for the Goff instrument that arrived for the NZBS last year has certainly proved its musical worth. Among frequent broadcasters on this instrument has been the pianist Gwyneth Brown, who recently played the harpsichord part in

(continued on next page)

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