

Guinness on Shakespeare

"If Shakespeare's tragedies don't kick you in the stomach then there's something wrong with the acting and direction," says the actor Alec Guinness in a talk on Shakespeare's plays, which he recorded recently in the BBC series *British Masterpieces*. In it he discusses the plays from the viewpoint of the actor and stage director, and he has some pertinent things to say. He considers that no actor can have a finer training in his craft than acting in Shakespeare; it teaches him to expand his lungs, speak distinctly, move with dignity, command the stage and exercise his emotions. But he does not lose sight of the fact that tradition has laid a heavy hand on some of the parts and overburdened them with wearisome "business." The answer he believes lies is a variety of styles, ranging from the naturalistic through the lyrical to the bigger-than-life. And about directors' problems, especially those concerning dressing and mounting, Guinness says that except for the historical dramas, it is best to dress them in the costumes of Shakespeare's day. This talk will be broadcast by 3YC at 7.34 p.m. on Saturday, December 15.

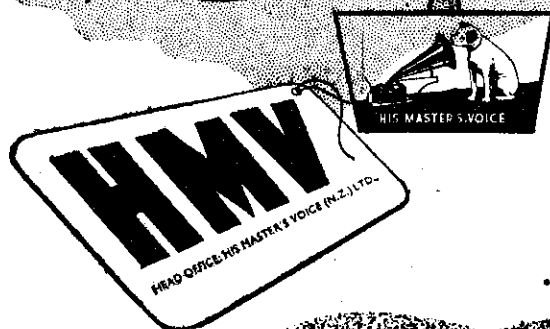


BBC photo
ALEC GUINNESS

Programmes for Sunday

FOR those who like to spend their Sunday afternoons near the radio, the Commercial stations and 2ZA will be broadcasting a series of six one-hour BBC programmes, beginning on December 16. The programmes will circulate round the stations, being played by 12B at 3.30 p.m., 22B at 2.0 p.m., 32B at 2.0 p.m., and 42B and 2ZA at 3.0 p.m. A *Half Century of Musical Comedy*, a programme that recalls the best musical comedies of the past fifty years, will be heard first from 12B. *The Secret War*, the story of the work of the Polish Underground movement in sabotaging Germany's guided missiles campaign, will be heard from the same station the following Sunday. Other programmes for December 16 will be *The Lepers' Apostle*, a history of Father Damien's work among the lepers on Molokai Island (2ZA); *Farewell Gaiety*, dealing with the now closed Gaiety Theatre in London (42B); *You Have Control*, which takes listeners step by step through the training of a jet pilot in the R.A.F. (32B); and *The Case of Emile Désiré Landru* (22B), which deals with the arrest and trial of the man who became known as the French Bluebeard.

N.Z. LISTENER, DECEMBER 7, 1951.



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