

★ To Direct Here ★



KEN ANNAKIN (above), the director of such recent films as *The Story of Robin Hood*, *Hotel Sahara* and *The Planter's Wife*, will be in New Zealand this summer. He is to direct the filming of the J. Arthur Rank production of *The Seekers*, an adaptation, in Technicolor, of a novel of the pioneer days written by John Guthrie, a New Zealand novelist now living in London. The location scenes will probably be shot mainly at Mercury Bay, in the Coromandel district, and the production team will be here for about a month. The producer of *The Seekers* will be George Brown, who has already looked over the locale out here, and the star may well be Jack Hawkins, at present being seen in *The Cruel Sea*. Ken Annakin paid a visit to New Zealand in 1937 and 1938 when, it was reported, he made a bicycle trip through the Haast Pass—carrying his bicycle most of the way.

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of Sicilian prototype of the 20th Century "little man," a person without strong political allegiances who is compelled by forces beyond his control to conform to a pattern of behaviour in which he has little faith. He is egged on by his ambitious wife, who procures him a fictitious foundation membership card from the local Party secretary, but he makes his decision mainly because of his fear that he will lose his job with the city council if he doesn't conform. His only consolation lies in his vision of his son's strength and opportunity to survive the evil that Mussolini has brought to his country.

Unfortunately his son has been called to the army, and serves as an officer in the various campaigns—Ethiopia, Spain, North Africa, Russia—only to be shot down at home just as the war ends by retreating Germans. The little clerk, having endured every unhappiness and humiliation in his attempt to live a decent life under such conditions, ends up by being sacked from his job anyway, because his fictitious record as an old-hand Black Shirt condemns him in the eyes of the American military governor who has taken over the town.

Umberto Spadaro is a sly comic actor who brings out the irony of the film's treatment, and gives to his role as well unusual warmth, compassion, and understanding. The English sub-titles are by Arthur Miller and the narration by John Garfield.

N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 7, 1953.

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