

Theatre Royal

Prepared by Paul W. Urbahns

This fine British anthology series, features plays based on the best of literature, films and English theater. Produced in two series, Sir Lawrence Olivier and Sir Ralph Richardson serve as hosts, narrators and many times portray the leading roles.

The program apparently was developed as a vehicle to capitalize on Olivier's name and talent. His career spanned over 50 years and continues into the 21st century, as in 2004, 15 years after his death, he was starring as Dr. Totenkopf in a Hollywood fantasy film titled, Sky Captain and The World of Tomorrow. This was accomplished by the producers who selected footage of Lord Olivier from various films and used to create a villainous leader of killer robots in the film. Jude Law, who stars in the film, said film-makers used Olivier because few other actors possessed his authority.

<http://www.skycaptain.com/>

Sir Ralph Richardson from 1954 – 1955 played the character of Dr. John Watson in another Harry Alan Towers radio series of Sherlock Holmes stories, which starred Sir John Gielgud as the famous consulting detective.

<http://www.irdp.co.uk/GIELGUD/valbbc5.htm>

Many fine actors of the British stage and screen were involved in individual episodes of the Theater Royale series, such as Sir John Gielgud, Robert Morley, Harry Andrews, Muriel Forbes, Robert Donat, and Daphne Maddox.

The music was credited to the renown British organist and arranger, Sidney Torch. However much of the same music was also used in other Harry Alan Towers productions on which Torch also worked, such as the Secrets Of Scotland Yard, Black Museum, and The Many Lives of Harry Lime. So how much of it was actually written for this series will probably never be known.

Harry Alan Towers produced and directed the show for his Towers of London company for international syndication, at the time in Europe, South Africa and Australia. The episodes included in this distribution are from the initial US run on NBC. However selected episodes were repeated, with a different series opening and close on the ABC Mystery Time series during the late 1950s. The show Theater Royale remained in active syndication in the United States well up into the 1970s. Many of the copies in circulation today, come from those 1970s repeats where the individual episodes were cut to about 20 minutes. Luckily these cuts were made by the production company and generally do not take away from the actual program enjoyment. This reduced length comes from a combination for factors including removing dated introductory material from the beginning of the early episodes, making time for local stations to include hourly 5 minute newscasts and to insert commercials locally.

In conclusion, this series consisted of new radio adaptations of famous, and not so famous stories by some of the best authors in the United States and England. It is the inclusion of some of those little known masterpieces by many familiar authors that gives the series a variety element usually missing in this type of

anthology series. Its long syndication run, well into the 70s, proves once again classic stories presented by talented actors never really goes out of style.

Episodes in this distribution:

SERIES ONE

1- Queen of Spades – (29:37)

Based on the short story by Alexander Pushkin .

BROADCAST DATE: 4 OCT 1953

STARRING: Orson Welles (Herman Sovotin);

CREDITS: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host); Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers of London), Sidney Torch (music director)

PLOT: A supernatural tale based on a short story by Russian poet Alexander Pushkin, this is the portrayal of a poor Captain in the Russian army in the nineteenth Century. His comrades in arms play cards nightly, but he cannot afford to join them until one night he dreams that he has gained from a mysterious aging countess her secret for winning at faro--a secret which legend has it she has sold her soul to obtain.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents Sir. Lawrence Olivier your host in "Theater Royale" (Theme)

This is Lawrence Olivier. I'm speaking to you from the stage of the Theater Royale, Haymarket, in the heart of London's theater land. This is one of London's oldest theaters and it is appropriate that I should introduce the first of this new series of programs from here. I am at this time rehearsing a new play with my wife Vivian Leigh, and after a short tour, I shall be opening in London early next month. Because of this, although I shall be introducing the program each week, I am for the first few of this series, inviting some of my own good friends of the theater to join me and to appear in subjects of their own choice. My first guest is a very old friend of mine. A good few years ago I have the pleasure of appearing as his guest on his own program from New York, and that is why it gives me particular pleasure to return the compliment, and to reintroduce you, this week, to Orson Welles. Orson has chosen a famous story by Alexander Pushkin which you may know, it is a tale of excitement and suspense which I think you will like. Here he is then, Orson Welles in the role of Herman in "The Queen of Spades"

Additional historical information on the Theater Royal Haymarket is available at this web site: <http://www.trh.co.uk/history/>

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: <http://home.freeuk.net/russica2/books/pushk/spads/spads.html>

TECHNICAL COMMENT: This episode is rather muffled in sound quality but highly listenable. Clipped on the end.

2- The Overcoat – (29:15)

Based on a short story by Russian author Nikolai Gogol, published in 1842.

BROADCAST DATE: 11 OCT 1953.

STARRING: Michael Redgrave (Akakii Akakievich)

CREDITS: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host); Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers of London), Sidney Torch (music director) .

PLOT: The story centers on the life and death of Akakii Akakievich, an impoverished government clerk and copyist in the Russian capital of St. Petersburg. Akakii is dedicated to his job, taking special relish in the hand-copying of documents, though little recognized in his department for his hard work. Instead, the younger clerks tease him and attempt to distract him whenever they can. His threadbare overcoat is often the butt of their jokes. Akakii decides it is necessary to have the coat repaired, so he takes it to his tailor, Petrovich, who declares the coat irreparable, telling Akakii he must buy a new overcoat.

FIRST LINE: "Transcribed" (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents Sir. Lawrence Olivier your host in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Once again I have pleasure in welcoming you to our program, and to tell you something about this week's play. As I mentioned last week, I am at this time rehearsing and producing a new stage play in which I am appearing with my wife, and until we open in the west end of London next month, I am introducing as my guests on this series some of my own good friends of the theater. This week, my invitation has, I'm glad to say been accepted by one of our finest actors, Michael Redgrave. Michael has been appearing this year, at Stratford On Avon with the Shakespeare Memorial Company, and some of you are listening that have visited England during this coronation year. Will I am sure join me in my admiration for his wonderful work. In today's program I have ask him to chose for himself a subject in which he would like to appear. He has selected a tale by Nikolai Gogol, that is called, The Overcoat. Here then is Michael Redgrave in the role of Akakii Akakievich, yes that's right Akakii Akakievich. (Music).

COMMENT: This same performance appeared to the ABC Mystery Time in the 1957 – 1958 period. Hear it here:

<http://oldtimeradio-in-tx.homedns.org/otr/abc%20mystery%20time/>

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Overcoat

3- The Tale – (29:22)

Based on the short story by Joseph Conrad .

BROADCAST DATE: 18 OCT 1953

STARRING: Ralph Richardson, Campbell Singer, Eric Berry, possibly Nicholas Smith (as Number 1)

CREDITS: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host); Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers of London), Sidney Torch (music director)

DB Brighton (adapter).

PLOT: World War One naval story about a Commanding Officer and a Northman.

FIRST LINE: Now transcribed, Theater Royale (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents Sir. Lawrence Olivier your host in "Theater Royale." (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. In a few weeks time when a new stage play in which I am appearing with my wife comes to London's West End, I shall have the pleasure of appearing each week in a different play on this program. But until then I am very happy to have the opportunity of introducing as my guests so of my own friends from the theater. Today's guest is an exceptionally good companion of mine, and we have had many happy associations together on the stage. You may perhaps recall our visit to the United States some years ago with the Old Vick Theater Company. I'm speaking, of course, of Ralph Richardson. Ralph has chosen for you a dramatization of a story by Joseph Conrad. It is in my opinion one of the best he ever wrote, and I think you will enjoy it. It has perhaps the simplest title of any story I know. Here then is Ralph Richardson in Joseph Conrad's story of the First World War, The Tale.

COMMENT: This same performance was also presented on the ABC Mystery Time series during the 1957 – 1958 period.

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Conrad and <http://www.bibliomania.com/0/5/15/363/18521/1/frameset.html>

4- The Happy Hypocrite – (29:36)

Based on the short story with moral implications, written by Max Beerbohm in 1897 .

BROADCAST DATE: 25 OCT 1953

STARRING: Sir John Gielgud (Lord George Hell)

CREDITS: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host); Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers of London), Sidney Torch (music director) .

PLOT: The story of a man who deceives a woman with a mask in order to marry her.

FIRST LINE: By transcription. (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents Sir. Lawrence Olivier your host in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Once again it is my pleasure to introduce a good friend of mine from the theater and the story he has chose for your entertainment. As many of you will already know, I am at this time preparing for its London presentation a new play. But in a few weeks time, I shall myself have the pleasure of appearing for you each week in various roles. Meantime, this week, I'm glad to tell you my invitation has been accepted by an actor whose name will be very familiar to you all, and who I am happy to count among my friends, John Gielgud. His work in the theater, both in London and New York will, of course, be familiar to you and many of you will have seen him in the recent Hollywood film production of Julius Caesar. John has chose a story which is among my own favorites, Max Beerbohm's Happy Hypocrite. Myself will be setting the scene for you, and so here now is John Gielgud in the role of Lord George Hell in Max Beerbohm's tale of England in regency days, The Happy Hypocrite.

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Happy_Hypocrite

5- Sire de Maletroit's Door – (29:27)

Based on the story by Robert Lewis Stevenson.

BROADCAST DATE: 1 NOV 1953

STARRING: Robert Donat (Denis de Beaulieu), Renée Ashershon (Blanche de Maletroit), Alfred Shirley (Alain Sire de Maletroit)

CREDITS: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host); Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers of London), Sidney Torch (music director) .

PLOT: Alain Sire de Maletroit has set a clever trap to capture the man who is sending love letters to his beautiful niece Blanche. Near her room, he has constructed a trick door that locks shut once someone has walked through it.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier your host in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. I shall quite shortly, as you know, be appearing each week in various roles in this series. But until then it is my pleasure to present to you some of my own good friends from the theater. My guest this week is an actor that will familiar to you through films such as, Goodbye Mr. Chips, the Citadel, The Count of Monte Cristo, the Ghost Goes West, The Winslow Boy, The Magic Box, and many more. His name, needlessly to say is Robert Donat. He has chosen a story by Robert Lewis Stevenson, and it gives me particular pleasure to tell you that you will hear with him in this play an actress, who it was my own good fortune to have with me in the role of Katherine in my film of Shakespeare's "Henry The V." I shouldn't have to remind you why

we all know her as Renée Ashershon, she is also Mrs. Robert Donat. Here then is Robert Donat in the role of Denny The Bougher, with Renée Ashershon as Blanch de Maletroit in Robert Lewis Stevenson's story Sire de Maletroit's Door
Additional information on this story available at this Web site: <http://www.classicreader.com/read.php/bookid.2925/sec./>

6- The Judgement – (29:15)

Based on the story by Fyodor Dostoevsky.

BROADCAST DATE: 1 NOV 1953

STARRING: Trevor Howard (John Farrington)

CREDITS: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host); Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers of London), Sidney Torch (music director) .

PLOT: Doctor John Farrington tells a strange romance story about his mental breakdown, and his effort to regain the woman he loved.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier your host in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Once again it is my pleasure to introduce to you a guest from the theater, who is going to appear in this weeks program. Next week, incidentally, I look forward to taking over the leading roles myself in this theater. Today's guest will, I feel sure, be already familiar to you through the many films he has made which has enjoyed success in the United States. I refer to such motion pictures as The Golden Salamander, The Third Man, and perhaps best known of all, Brief Encounter. He is of course, Trevor Howard. He has chosen to play the role of John Farrington in our play based on a work by Dostoevsky called The Judgement. Here then is Trevor Howard as John Farrington in "The Judgement".

Additional information on this author available at this Web site: <http://www.fyodordostoevsky.com/quotes.php>

7- The Purse – (29:17)

Based on the story by Honore de Balzac

BROADCAST DATE: 1 NOV 1953

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host and star as Hippolyte Schinner), Ann Goodron (Addilad), Fair wells (Laberon, her mother), Keith Piette (the Count),

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director) .

PLOT: An elderly lady, claiming to be a Baroness, and her daughter play cards nightly with gentlemen.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. During the past few weeks I've had the pleasure of introducing in this series, a number of good friends of the theater. Whilst the new stage play in which my wife and I are now appearing was touring prior to its London presentation. Last week we opened the season in the West End of London, and that is why it gives me a special pleasure today to appear for the first time in the play which I present. I shall each week be choosing different stories. Today's play is from the pen of Honore de Balzac and I am going to play the role of Hippolyte Schinner, a young artist. The Place is Paris. The time, many years ago. The title is The Purse. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: <http://www.fullbooks.com/The-Purse.html>

8- La Grande Breteche – (29:30)

Based on the story by Honore de Balzac

BROADCAST DATE: 28 NOV 1953

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host and star as Count de Merret)

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: A young count has his wife's secret lover bricked up in a closet in her bedroom.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. My choice this week is another story by Honore de Balzac a little stronger in vein than last week, it is called La Grande Breteche. I shall play the part of the Count de Merret , the setting is in France, some hundred and fifty years ago. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honor%C3%A9_de_Balzac or at <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/1710>

9- Markheim – (29:27)

Based on the story by Robert Lewis Stevenson

BROADCAST DATE: 5 DEC 1953

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host and star as Markheim)

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: Markheim is in debt at Christmastime and that leads to murder.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Today's play is adapted from the work of a man who stands alone. A true prince of story tellers. Robert Lewis Stevenson. Each of us has, I am sure, a favorite Stevenson story. But this one, I think, being among one of his lesser known, you may like to hear. I myself shall be playing the title role in Robert Lewis Stevenson's Markheim. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: <http://www.classicshorts.com/stories/Markheim.html>

11- Zodomirsky's Duel – (28:12)

Based on the story by Alexandre Dumas

BROADCAST DATE: 19 DEC 1953

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host and star as Zamirsky), Arthur Ridley, Keith Pyatt, Elizabeth Kentish, Seymour Green, Anthony Carrie.

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: The story of some Russian soldiers following the Napoleonic Wars.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Today's play is adapted from a story by Alexandre Dumas of the Three Musketeers and the Count of Monte Cristo and many more that I am sure you will know. I myself am going to play the role of Capt Zodomirsky in the story called Zamirsky's Duel. (Music)

12- A Christmas Carol – (23:32)

Based on the story by Charles Dickens

BROADCAST DATE: 24 DEC 1953

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host, narrator and star as Scrooge),

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: One of the world's most famous Christmas stories about the miserly Scrooge.

FIRST LINE: The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier as your narrator and in the role of Scrooge in Charles Dickens immortal story A Christmas Carol (Opening Music) This is Lawrence Olivier. Over a hundred years ago in December 1843, Charles Dickens wrote this story. Since then each year, countless millions have listened to or read what has become the world's most famous Christmas tale. The London from which I speak to you today, differs in many ways, but in many other ways it is the same as the town Charles Dickens wrote about and loved so well. It still has it's rain and fog.... (Music)

13- Canterville Ghost – (29:14)

Based on the story by Oscar Wilde

BROADCAST DATE: 26 DEC 1953

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host and star as Sir Simon de Canterville/The Ghost), McDonald Park, Francis Highland, Howard Marion Crawford, Thelma Ruby, Lois McCain.

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: Very British classic comedy about the traditional spirit and the non-traditional American family he tries to haunt.

FIRST LINE: Opening missing (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Today's play has been adapted from a story by Oscar Wilde. It is a little comedy. It was, of course written many years ago, and my friends in America will, I am sure, accept the jest in the spirit in which it is written. I myself will play "the ghost" in Oscar Wilde's "The Canterville Ghost". (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Canterville_Ghost

Also http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord_Arthur_Savile's_Crime_and_Other_Stories

14- Country of the Blind – (28:52)

Based on the story by H G Wells originally published in the Strand magazine

BROADCAST DATE: 2 JAN 1954

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host and star as Nunez),

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: Nunez, a guide ends up in the strange world of the blind. ..

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Today's play is based on one of my own favorite stories, written by an author, who in his day, foretold many of the miracles, which today we treat as common place. H G Wells. This particular story deals, as so many of his others, with the world of his imagination. I shall play the part of (Nunez) the man who tells the story. Here then is H G Wells, The Country of the Blind. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Country_of_the_Blind also <http://www.online-literature.com/wellshg/3/>

16- Little Louise – (29:26)

Based on the story Little Louise Roque by Guy de Maupassant

BROADCAST DATE: 16 JAN 1954

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host, narrator and star)

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: Louise Roque was found dead.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Today's play is based on a short story by Guy de Maupassant. I myself shall be playing the part of Joseph Renardet who tells the tale. The story takes place in France. As we have no wish to disconcert the citizens of the capitol city of Arkansas we have altered the title which it has here to before gone by Little Roque. Here then is our play based on one of Guy de Maupassant's best known stores and tale of crime and retribution which we've called Little Louise. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: <http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/d/guy-de-maupassant/> also <http://www.online-literature.com/maupassant/238/>

17- Lord Arthur Savilles Crime – (29:02)

Based on the story Oscar Wilde

BROADCAST DATE: 23 JAN 1954

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host, and star as Lord Arthur Savilles),

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: Lord Arthur Savile's hand is read and it forecasts that he will commit murder so he plans the crime to get it over with.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Today our play is comedy, but a comedy with a difference. For it is written with the cynical, hot house artificiality of Oscar Wilde. Many of you may already be familiar with the famous short story our play is based. But in any case, may I suggest, the importance of being earnest is a consideration not required by the audience. The place is Edwardian England and I myself shall play the title role in Lord Arthur Savilles Crime. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord_Arthur_Savile's_Crime_and_Other_Stories

18- Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde – (29:00)

Based on the story by Robert Lewis Stevenson

BROADCAST DATE: 30 JAN 1954

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host, narrator and star)

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: The famous story of Edward Hyde.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. We have before now introduced in this series, stories by Robert Lewis Stevenson. Today, we have chosen perhaps the best known tale he ever wrote. Possibly the best known classic in literature. Also for me it has the attraction of one of the most fascinating dual roles ever created. So now it is my pleasure to invite you to listen to Robert Lewis Stevenson's story, Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Strange_Case_of_Dr_Jekyll_and_Mr_Hyde

19- The Case Of Bardell vs Pickwick – (18:52)

Based on the Pickwick Papers by Charles Dickens

BROADCAST DATE: 6 FEB 1954

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host, and star)

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: The case of Bardell vs. Pickwick comes to court, and Mr. Pickwick prepares for his ordeal.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Today's play is adapted from some sequences chosen from Charles Dickens immortal Pickwick Papers. We've have taken our title from perhaps the most famous trial in the history of fiction. And I myself shall be playing the role of that most formable Sergeant At Law, Sergeant Buss Fuzz. So now back we go through many loving years to hear the case of Bardell vs Pickwick (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: <http://staff.washington.edu/cgiacom/pickwick/index.html>

TECHNICAL NOTES: Sounds like this file was converted from a Real Audio file.

20- Bartleby – (29:17)

Based on the story by Herman Melville

BROADCAST DATE: 13 FEB 1954

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host, and star),

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: The narrator, torn between pity and exasperation, also discovers that Bartleby apparently has no home or friends, and lives in the office. But the employer does not want to fire him.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Once again it is my pleasure to introduce to you another in this series of programs. And this week my choice of subject is for the first time the work of an American author, and a mighty American author too. Herman Melville. It's a favorite story, but unexpected both in mood and setting. Almost impossible to associate with the author of Moby Dick, written in a comedy vein but a strange tenderness adhears to it. A haunting melocholy just under the surface of its light hearted exterior. Hope it will interest you as it does me. I'm to play the part of Master in Chancelory whop tells the story. The setting is New York many years ago and the title is Bartleby. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bartleby_the_Scrivener

21- The Inspector General – (29:02)

Based on the story by Russian author Nikolai Gogol

BROADCAST DATE: 20 FEB 1954

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host, and star),

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: The top officials of a small provincial town, headed by the Mayor, react with terror to the rumors of an incognito inspector (the *revizor*) to be sent to their town for an undercover inspection. .

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Today we have chosen a comedy piece by Nikolai Gogol . It's a famous story, and has provided the basis for both plays and films. I myself shall be playing the part of Ivan Aleksandrovich Khlestakovin Nikolai Gogol's The Inspector General. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Inspector_General

22- The Suicide Club – (29:05)

Based on the story by Robert Lewis Stevenson

BROADCAST DATE: 27 FEB 1954.

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host, and star as the story teller),

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: The top officials of a small provincial town, headed by the Mayor, react with terror to the rumors of an incognito inspector (the *revizor*) to be sent to their town for an undercover inspection. .

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Today's story is one of Robert Lewis Stevensons. It comes from a collection which the author himself called, The New Arabian Nights. And that perhaps gives you something of the flavor of this story which is set in London in the 19th Century. I myself shall play the role of the storyteller in this adaptation of Robert Lewis Stevenson's The Suicide Club. (Music)

COMMENT: This same performance appeared on the ABC Mystery Time series in the 1957 – 1958 period. Hear it here:

<http://oldtimeradio-in-tx.homedns.org/otr/abc%20mystery%20time/>

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Louis_Stevenson and <http://homepages.pavilion.co.uk/tartarus/stevenson.htm>

23- Outcasts of Poker Flats – (29:13)

Based on the short story by Bret Harte

BROADCAST DATE: 6 MAR 1954

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host, narrator and star),

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: A secret committee has decided to rid the town of all improper persons.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier in "Theater Royale"

(Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Today's play is adapted from a story by Bret Harte. Many of you will already be familiar with his tales of the west. His knowledge of those spacious days was gained from personal experience for Bret Harte, himself was one of the famous 49ers. He drew on his own rich experience for tales such as the one we've told today. I myself shall relate the story and play the part of Mr. John Oakhurst. Here then is the Outcasts of Poker Flats by Bret Harte. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site:

http://www.pagebypagebooks.com/Bret_Harte/The_Outcasts_Of_Poker_Flat/The_Outcasts_Of_Poker_Flat_p1.html

24- Mr. Micawber's Difficulties – (25:35)

Based on the book David Copperfield by Charles Dickens

BROADCAST DATE: 13 MAR 1954

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host, narrator and star, Mr. Micawber), Susan Richards (Mrs. Micawber), Patricia Fryer (young David Copperfield), Anthony Grean, Gabriel Blunt, Keith Pyatt, Jackson Taylor.

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: Story presented appears in Chapter 11 of David Copperfield, as Mr. Micawber's difficulties relate to him being temporarily short on money and forced to take a lodger...David. But it does no good as Micawber is jailed for his debts.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier in "Theater Royale"

(Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Today for a change, our play was taken from sequences I have chosen from a novel, I think, must be almost, the most famous ever written. Charles Dickens's David Copperfield. This particular sequence introduces a particular character, to me, a very particular character, Mr. Micawber. So now I'm going to tell you the story of Mr Micawber's Difficulties. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: <http://www.online-literature.com/dickens/copperfield/>

25- The Luck of Roaring Camp – (28:24)

Based on the short story by Bret Harte

BROADCAST DATE: 20 MAR 1954

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host, narrator and star),

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: "Cherokee Sal." Dies after giving birth to a baby at the all male Roaring Camp, later called Tommy Luck.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier in "Theater Royale"

(Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Some weeks ago, I introduced for the first time in this series, a play based on a short story by Bret Harte. Today I've turned to the same author and chosen another of his famous stories of the west. I'm going to play the same role, I played before. That of Oakhurst The Gambler. But now I'm going to tell you Bret Harte's story the Luck of Roaring Camp. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bret_Harte

Additional information at: <http://www.bartleby.com/310/4/1.html>

26- A Tale of Two Cities – (28:01)

Based on the book by Charles Dickens

BROADCAST DATE: 27 MAR 1954

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host, narrator and star as Sydney Carton),

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: The story of two men, Charles Darnay and Sydney Carton, who look similar but are very different in personality. .
FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier in "Theater Royale"
(Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. We have before now turned to the novels of Charles Dickens and taken from them sequences as the basis of our radio play. Today's play comes from the same magnificent source. The setting is London and Paris at the time of the French Revolution. The book, *The Tale of Two Cities*. The sequences we've chosen will be familiar to you, and I myself shall be playing the role of Sydney Carton. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Tale_of_Two_Cities

28- When Greek Meets Greek – (28:01)

Based on the 1941 comedy story Graham Greene

BROADCAST DATE: 11 APR 1954

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host, narrator and star as Nicholas Fennick),

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: Story of Oxford University during war time. Nicholas Fennick starts selling mail order correspondence degree diplomas from St Ambrose College at Oxford (Tom Brown's old college).

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier in "Theater Royale"

(Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. I've chosen today a favorite by one of our modern writers in England, Graham Greene, which has been adapted as a radio play. It is perhaps a little unexpectedly, and I think delightfully, a comedy. I'm going to play the part of Nicholas Fennick. And so now let me tell you Graham Greene's story *When Greek meets Greek*. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site:

Comments: "Greek Meets Greek" was a 1941 short story by Graham Greene. Greene also penned the story "The Third Man" which Harry Alan Towers produced as *The Many Lives of Harry Lime* radio series.

29- Snow Goose – (27:53)

Based on the Paul Gallico story appearing in the Saturday Evening Post in 1940.

BROADCAST DATE: 18 APR 1954

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host, narrator and star as Phillip Ryador),

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: In 1930, on the east coast of England. Philip Rhayader, an artist in his late twenties, is a hunchback with a crippled left arm. Rebuffed by society, he retreats to the desolate marshland by the sea, where he lives in an abandoned lighthouse. One day, three years after Rhayader had come to the lighthouse, a young girl named Frith, no more than twelve, carrying an injured bird in her arms. Rhayader tends to the bird, and tells Frith it is a Canadian snow goose, blown off course by a violent storm. Frith visits the lighthouse often to see the bird, but after it flies north in the spring, her visits stop. And Rhayader's loneliness returns..

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier in "Theater Royale"

(Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Today's play and the last in this series is based on a story which is forever haunting to me by Paul Gallico. It's of the Second World War and I think it may already be familiar to you. I myself shall play the part of Phillip Ryador and tell you Paul Gallico's story *The Snow Goose*. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: <http://www.penguinreaders.com/downloads/9780582426955.pdf>
and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Gallico

SERIES TWO

30- The Colonel's Lady – (18:42)

Based on the W. Somerset Maugham .

BROADCAST DATE: 25 APR 1954

STARRING: Ralph Richardson (host, performer), Muriel Forbes, Daphne Maddox, Stephen Jack, Campbell Singer, Elizabeth Kentish, Jackson Fraser, William Mervin, Paul Whitson Jones

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (director and producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director), Derek Patmore (adaptor).

PLOT: A well done story about an English country gentleman who's made a laughing stock when his wife's book of poetry becomes a best seller.

FIRST LINE: (Theme) This is Ralph Richardson. (Music) Today, I've chosen to present to you, a dramatization of a tale by one of the finest of storytellers, Somerset Maugham. I expect that many of you who are listening will have seen some of the films based on

his stories. And so you may recall this tale which was included in the first of those films, 'Quartet'. In this adaptation, I shall be playing the part of the storyteller Colonel Pelagreen. So here now is Somerset Maugham's tale of The Colonel's Lady.
COMMENT: A number of Maugham's short stories have been filmed. *Quartet* (1948) consisted of four stories introduced by the author - 'The Facts of Life', 'The Alien Corn', 'The Kite', and 'The Colonel's Lady.' This film was mentioned in the introduction.
Additional information on this story available at this Web site: <http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/maugham.htm>

31- Black Mate – (27:40)

Based on the story by Joseph Conrad .

BROADCAST DATE: 2 MAY 1954

STARRING: Sir. Ralph Richardson (host, narrator and star), Stephen Jack, Jackson Fraser, Campbell Singer, John Cassabon

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director), Derek Patmore (adaptor). .

PLOT: A ghost seems to have knocked down and terrified a non-believing ship's officer. .

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Ralph Richardson Olivier in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Ralph Richardson. Our story today is by Joseph Conrad. Many of you will be familiar with his tales of the sea.

Conrad , himself was a sailor, by adoption. Born in Poland, he made the sea his profession, and he spent a good part of his life upon it. This tale, unlike many of his best known, is a comedy. But everything he wrote breathes the very spirit of the life he knew so well.

I myself will play the part of Captain John in this adaptation of Joseph Conrad's story, The Black Mate. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Conrad

32- Half An Hour – (26:52)

Based on the play by Sir James M. Barrie

BROADCAST DATE: 9 MAY 1954.

STARRING: Sir. Ralph Richardson (host, narrator and star)

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: To save himself from financial ruin, the Earl of Westford (H. Cooper Cliffe) sells his daughter, Lady Lilian (Dorothy Dalton), to Richard Garson (Charles Richman), a wealthy commoner. Although Garson sincerely loves Lilian, and he is thrilled to have married a titled young woman, Lilian is not happy with the situation .

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Ralph Richardson Olivier in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Ralph Richardson. Our play today is Sir James Barrie's Half An Hour. It was originally written in the form of a one act play and so it lends itself easily to our purpose. Barrie invariably wrote his stage direction in a personal and descriptive manner. I don't think I can do better but to borrow from his own stage direction to make the introduction. I myself will play the part of Richard Garson in Sir James Barrie's Half An Hour. The place is London and the time a more 33- leisedured age than we know today.(Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J. M. Barrie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._M._Barrie)

COMMENT: Barrie's most famous play was "Peter Pan"

COMMENT: This same performance was also presented on ABC Mystery Time during the 1957 – 1958 period.

33- Doctor Knock – (28:45)

Based on the play by Jules Romain

BROADCAST DATE: 16 MAY 1954

STARRING: Robert Morley (Doctor Kanock)

CREDITS: Sir Ralph Richardson (Host), Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: To save himself from financial ruin, the Earl of Westford (H. Cooper Cliffe) sells his daughter, Lady Lilian (Dorothy Dalton), to Richard Garson (Charles Richman), a wealthy commoner. Although Garson sincerely loves Lilian, and he is thrilled to have married a titled young woman, Lilian is not happy with the situation .

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Ralph Richardson your host in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Ralph Richardson. From time to time in this series I shall be introducing, as my guests some of my friends from the theater. Today my invitation has been accepted by an actor whom I admire for many reasons, including the fact that he always makes me laugh. Theater goes in many lands will know him through his performance in his own play, Edward My Son. And by many other fine performances both on the screen and on the stage. I refer, of course, to Robert Morley , he's chosen an adaptation of a play by Jules Romain. Doctor Kanock. Here then is Robert Morley as Doctor Knock. (Music)

34- Aspern Papers – (28:55)

Based on the story by Henry James

BROADCAST DATE: 23 MAY 1954

STARRING: Sir Ralph Richardson (Host and star)

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: Set in Venice, a devotee who tries to obtain some valuable letters written by the poet.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Ralph Richardson Olivier in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Ralph Richardson. Our play today is based on a story by Henry James. Henry James, one of America's greatest writers, though born in America, spent a great deal of his life abroad. And his stories, like this one, are often set in Europe. A Successful novelist, Henry James had a life long ambition to achieve equal success as a playwright. During his lifetime he failed. But since then, several of his tales have been dramatized by other hands into successful plays. You might perhaps recall that I appeared in a film version for one of those stories called, The Heiress. But now we present to you our adaptation of another work by Henry James. The Aspern Papers. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_James

35- My Adventure In Norfolk – (29:13)

Based on the short story by A.J. Allen

BROADCAST DATE: 30 MAY 1954

STARRING: Sir Ralph Richardson (Host and storyteller), Elizabeth Kentish, Joan Young, Cecile Chevereaux, Jackson Fraser, Campbell Singer.

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music).

PLOT: Vacation time in Norfolk

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Ralph Richardson in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Ralph Richardson. Our play today is based on a short story by A.J. Allen, a name that will be remembered and loved by many. A.J. Allen developed his craft in the early days of broadcasting. The stories he wrote he told himself on the air in an extremely personal manner which is quite inimitable. Today we've dramatized one of these stories in which I will be the storyteller, it is called 'My Adventure In Norfolk'. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks06/0609301.txt>

COMMENT: This same performance was also presented on ABC Mystery Time aka Mystery Classics during the 1957 – 1958 period. Hear it here: <http://www.divshare.com/download/342460-549>

COMMENT: This same performance was also presented on the ABC Mystery Time series during the 1957 – 1958 period.

TECHNICAL COMMENTS: The closing announcements by Richardson is missing..

36- Private Room – (25:58)

Based on the play by J.B. Priestly

BROADCAST DATE: 6 JUN 1954

STARRING: Sir Ralph Richardson (Host and Max Talley)

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: Max Talley, an old-time star of the Viennese theatre, takes a beautiful young ballerina to dinner in a private room...

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Ralph Richardson in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Ralph Richardson. Our play today is written by a very old friend of mine from the theater, with whom I have been associated on a number of occasions. J B Priestly. Unlike many of our subjects, this was originally written for the stage and not as a short story. Mr. Priestly describes it as "a one act comedy in the Viennese style." I myself will play the part of Max Talley. Here then is JB Priestly's comedy Private Rooms. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._B._Priestley

37- Man Who Could Work Miracles – (29:32)

Based on the story by H.G. Wells

BROADCAST DATE: 16 JUN 1954

STARRING: Sir Ralph Richardson (Host), Alec Guinness (as George Fotheringay, narrator).

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: George McWhirter Fotheringay, while vigorously asserting the impossibility of miracles, suddenly discovers that he can perform them.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Ralph Richardson your host in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Ralph Richardson. From time to time, I'm inviting some of my friends from the theater to join me as my guests in this program. And today I am very happy to welcome an actor whose recent work on the stage, and particularly on the screen, has made him one of the best known and best loved of our stars. I refer to Alec Guinness. He has chosen to appear in a

role created by the late H.G. Wells, a part which in my opinion, might very well have been created for Alec himself. Here then is Alec Guinness, both as your story teller and as Fotheringay in HG Wells, The Man Who Could Work Miracles. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Man_Who_Could_Work_Miracles_%28novel%29

TECHNICAL COMMENTS: The closing announcements by Richardson is clipped.

38- The Liar – (25:58)

Based on the story by Henry James

BROADCAST DATE: 23 JUN 1954

STARRING: Sir. Ralph Richardson (Host and as Oliver Lyon)

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: Oliver Lyon, a famous portrait artist living in London, is invited to Hertfordshire to the estate of Sir David Ashmore where the grand 90-year-old gentleman will sit for his portrait. Lyon arrives to a dinner party a day before the scheduled sitting. At the table his attention is immediately drawn to the face of a man he thinks is a gallant adventurer, Colonel Capadose, so enterprising and handsome and brave he seems..

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Ralph Richardson in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Ralph Richardson. Our play today is based on another story by Henry James, an author for whom I have an infinite admiration. I've always thought that this was a tale that would dramatize well and I hope that you will like my choice. Here then is our story, by Henry James, The Liar. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_James

TECHNICAL COMMENTS: The closing announcements by Richardson is clipped.

39- My Uncle Toby – (28:41)

Based on the novel "Tristram Shandy" by Laurence Sterne .

BROADCAST DATE: 30 JUN 1954

STARRING: Sir Ralph Richardson (Host and as Toby)

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: Uncle Toby is a gentle, uncomplicated lover of his fellow man.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Ralph Richardson in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Ralph Richardson. This week we turn to Laurence Sterne's famous novel "Tristram Shandy" The literature of England is rich in loveable eccentrics, but none more lovable, if not more eccentric than Laurence Sterne's Uncle Toby. Most of us are familiar with the old soldier who lives again in memory the battles and sieges of his earlier days. And such was Tristram Shandy's Uncle Toby. A verteran of the campaigns of Molbra 200 or more years ago. I myself will play the role of Toby and James McKetnee as Tristram will relate these scenes from "Tristram Shandy" which we have called My Uncle Toby. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://www.1911encyclopedia.org/Laurence_Sterne

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Life_and_Opinions_of_Tristram_Shandy_Gentleman

40- Four Meetings – (28:30)

Based on the story by Henry James.

BROADCAST DATE: 7 JUL 1954

STARRING: Sir Ralph Richardson (Host, narrator and star as Henry James)

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: Miss Caroline Spencer is shown pictures of Europe by Henry James then he meets up with her in Paris.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Ralph Richardson in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Ralph Richardson. In this series of programs we have adapted in the past some of the stories of Henry James, and again today our play is based on one of his tales. It has that bitter sweet quality which one so often associates with his work. It concerns, as his stories so often do, an American in Europe. Here then is our tale, Henry James Four Meetings. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_James

Also <http://www2.newpaltz.edu/~hathawar/fourmeetings.html>

TECHNICAL COMMENTS: The closing announcements by Richardson is missing, as well as the program ending announcements.

41- A Sentimental Journey – (29:11)

Based on the novel "A Sentimental JourneyThrough France and Italy" by Laurence Sterne

BROADCAST DATE: 14 JUL 1954

STARRING: Sir Ralph Richardson (Host, narrator and star)

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: An Englishman takes a leisurely journey through France.

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Ralph Richardson in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Ralph Richardson. A short while ago in this series, we played for you some scenes based on sequences from "Tristram Shandy" by Laurence Sterne. Today, for your pleasure, we have some scenes from the second of two books upon which his fame rests, A Sentimental Journey. If we can success in capturing the spirit of that book, we shall deal in a measure of delight. For I find it one of the most charming books I know. 200 years ago Laurence Sterne paid a visit to France and anticipated much of the misfortune and the good fortune too, which has attended upon generations of tourists, right up to the present day. Come with us, won't you, as we take a step back into France as 200 years ago. And take with Laurence Sterne a Sentimental Journey. (Music) Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurence_Sterne

42- Becky Sharpe – (29:11)

Based on the book Vanity Fair by William Thackeray

BROADCAST DATE: 21 JUL 1954

STARRING: Sir Ralph Richardson (Host), Margaret Lockwood (Becky Sharpe), Rex Garner (George Osborne), Joan Young (Amelia Osborne), Wilfred Brabbage (Joseph Sedley), Robert Sampson.

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: Set at the time of the Napoleonic wars, Thackeray created one of the most fascinating immoral female characters, Becky Sharpe. .

FIRST LINE: (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Ralph Richardson your host in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Ralph Richardson. Today for our play, we're turning to a famous book Vanity Fair by William Thackeray. In this masterpiece, Thackeray created one of the most exasperating and endearing of all feminine characters Becky Sharpe. To play the role of Becky Sharpe is my guest, a charming English actress who I guess will be familiar to many of you through her films in which she has appeared. Margaret Lockwood. Here then is Margaret Lockwood in some sequences from Vanity Fair which we have called, Becky Sharpe. (Music)

COMMENTS: Margaret Lockwood plays Becky Sharpe in a series of excerpts from William Makepeace Thackeray's book Vanity Fair. Margaret Lockwood had a long career (1935 – 1976) in British films including Hitchcock's The Lady Vanishes (1938).

TECHNICAL COMMENTS: The closing announcements and theme music is missing.

COMMAND PERFORMANCE SERIES OF REPEATS

43- Queen of Spades – (28:29)

Based on the short story by Alexander Pushkin .

BROADCAST DATE: 28 JUL 1954 REPEAT BROADCAST OF 4 OCT 1953

STARRING: Orson Welles (Herman Sovotin); Ellen Pollack

CREDITS: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host); Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music)

PLOT: A supernatural tale based on a short story by Russian poet Alexander Pushkin, this is the portrayal of a poor Captain in the Russian army in the nineteenth Century. His comrades in arms play cards nightly, but he cannot afford to join them until one night he dreams that he has gained from a mysterious aging countess her secret for winning at faro—a secret which legend has it she has sold her soul to obtain.

FIRST LINE: Transcribed (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents Sir. Lawrence Olivier your host in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. I'm speaking to you from the stage of the Theater Royale, Haymarket, in the heart of London's theater land. This is one of London's oldest Theaters and it is appropriate that I should introduce the first of this new series of programs from here. I am at this time rehearsing a new play with my wife Vivian Leigh, and after a short tour, I shall be opening in London early next month. Because of this, although I shall be introducing the program each week, I am for the first few of this series, inviting some of my own good friends of the theater to join me and to appear in subjects of their own choice. My first guest is a very old friend of mine. A good few years ago I have the pleasure of appearing as his guest on his own program from New York, and that is why it gives me particular pleasure to return the compliment, and to reintroduce you, this week, to Orson Welles. Orson has chosen a famous story by Alexander Pushkin which you may know, it is a tale of excitement and suspense which I think you will like. Here he is then, Orson Welles in the role of Herman in "The Queen of Spades"

Additional historical information on the Theater Royal Haymarket is available at this web site: <http://www.trh.co.uk/history/>

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: <http://home.freeuk.net/russica2/books/pushk/spads/spads.html>

44- The Overcoat – (28:55)

Based on a short story by Russian author Nikolai Gogol, published in 1842.

BROADCAST DATE: 4 AUG 1954 REBROADCAST OF 11 OCT 1953 PROGRAM.

STARRING: Michael Redgrave (Akakii Akakievich)

CREDITS: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host); Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director) .

PLOT: The story centers on the life and death of Akakii Akakievich, an impoverished government clerk and copyist in the Russian capital of St. Petersburg. Akakii is dedicated to his job, taking special relish in the hand-copying of documents, though little recognized in his department for his hard work. Instead, the younger clerks tease him and attempt to distract him whenever they can. His threadbare overcoat is often the butt of their jokes. Akakii decides it is necessary to have the coat repaired, so he takes it to his tailor, Petrovich, who declares the coat irreparable, telling Akakii he must buy a new overcoat.

FIRST LINE: "Transcribed" (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents Sir. Lawrence Olivier your host in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Once again I have pleasure in welcoming you to our program, and to tell you something about this week's play. This week, my invitation has, I'm glad to say been accepted by one of our finest actors, Michael Redgrave. In today's program I have ask him to chose for himself a subject in which he would like to appear. He has selected a tale by Nikolai Gogol, that is called, The Overcoat. Here then is Michael Redgrave in the role of Akakii Akakievich, yes that's right Akakii Akakievich. (Music).

COMMENT: Dated material from the October 1953 broadcast has been edited out of Lawrence Olivier's introduction. This same performance was also presented on ABC Mystery Time during the 1957 – 1958 period.

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Overcoat

45- The Happy Hypocrite – (29:00)

Based on the short story with moral implications, written by Max Beerbohm in 1897 .

BROADCAST DATE: 11 AUG 1954, REBROADCAST OF 25 OCT 1953 PROGRAM.

STARRING: Sir John Gielgud (Lord George Hell)

CREDITS: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host); Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director) .

PLOT: The story of a man who deceives a woman with a mask in order to marry her.

FIRST LINE: This is Theater Royale, Tonights play is the third in the important series of command performances transcribed by the greatest stars of the English theater and their distinguished host Sir. Lawrence Olivier .Tonight's guest John Gielgud. As the Happy Hypocrite. (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents Sir. Lawrence Olivier your host in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Once again it is my pleasure to introduce a good friend of mine from the theater and the story that he has chosen for your entertainment. An actor whose name will be very familiar to you all, John Gielgud. His work in the theater, both in London and New York will, of course, be familiar to you and many of you will have seen him in the recent Hollywood film production of Julius Caesar. John has chosen a story which is among my own favorites, Max Beerbohm's Happy Hypocrite. I myself will be setting the scene for you, and so here now is John Gielgud in the role of Lord George Hell in Max Beerbohm's tale of England in regency days, The Happy Hypocrite.

COMMENT: Dated material from the October 1953 broadcast has been edited out of Lawrence Olivier's introduction, for this command performance repeat.

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Conrad

46- Sire de Maletroit's Door – (28:52)

Based on the story by Robert Lewis Stevenson.

BROADCAST DATE: 18 AUG 1954 REBROADCAST OF 1 NOV 1953

STARRING: Robert Donat (Denis de Beaulieu), Renée Ashershon (Blanche de Maletroit), Alfred Shirley (Alain Sire de Maletroit)

CREDITS: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host); Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director) .

PLOT: Alain Sire de Maletroit has set a clever trap to capture the man who is sending love letters to his beautiful niece Blanche. Near her room, he has constructed a trick door that locks shut once someone has walked through it.

FIRST LINE: This is Theater Royale, Tonight's play is the fourth in the important series of command performances transcribed by the greatest stars of the English theater and their distinguished host Sir. Lawrence Olivier .Tonight's guest Robert Donat Sire de Maletroit's Door by Robert Lewis Stevenson. (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier your host in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. My guest this week is an actor that will familiar to you through films such as, Goodbye Mr Chips, the Citadel, The Count of Monte Christo, the Ghost Goes West, The Winslow Boy, The

Magic Box, and many more. His name, needlessly to say is Robert Donat. He has chosen a story by Robert Lewis Stevenson, and it gives me particular pleasure to tell you that you will hear with him in this play an actress, who it was my own good fortune to have with me in the role of Katherine in my film of Shakespeares "Henry The V." I shouldn't have to remind you why we all know her as Renée Ashershon, she is also Mrs. Robert Donat. Here then is Robert Donat in the role of Denny The Bougher, with Renée Ashershon as Blanch de Maletroit in Robert Lewis Stevenson's story Sire de Maletroit's Door

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: <http://www.classicreader.com/read.php/bookid.2925/sec./>

47- The Judgement – (29:15)

Based on the story by Fyodor Dostoevsky.

BROADCAST DATE: 25 AUG 1954 REBROADCAST OF 7 NOV 1953 PROGRAM

STARRING: Trevor Howard (John Farrington)

CREDITS: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host); Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: Doctor John Farrington tells a strange romance story about his mental breakdown, and his effort to regain the woman he loved.

FIRST LINE: This is Theater Royale, Tonight's play is the fifth in the important series of command performances transcribed by the greatest stars of the English theater and their distinguished host Sir. Lawrence Olivier. Tonight's guest Trevor Howard, the play The Judgement by Dostoevsky. (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier your host in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Once again it is my pleasure to introduce to you a guest from the theater who is going to appear in this weeks program. Next week, incidentally, I look forward to taking over the leading roles myself in this series. Today's guest will, I feel sure, be already familiar to you through the many films he has made which has enjoyed success in the United States. I refer to such motion pictures as The Golden Salamander, The Third Man, and perhaps best known of all, Brief Encounter. He is of course, Trevor Howard. He has chosen to play the role of John Farrington in our play based on a work by Dostoevsky it's called The Judgement. Here then is Trevor Howard as John Farrington in The Judgement.

48- Country of the Blind – (29:15)

Based on the story by H G Wells originally published in the Strand magazine

BROADCAST DATE: 1 SEP 1954 REBROADCAST OF 2 JAN 1954 PROGRAM.

STARRING: Sir. Lawrence Olivier (host and star as Nunez),

CREDITS: Harry Alan Towers (producer, Towers Of London), Sidney Torch (music director).

PLOT: Nunez, a guide ends up in the strange world of the blind. ..

FIRST LINE: This is Theater Royale, Tonight's play is the last in the important series of command performances transcribed by the greatest stars of the English theater and their distinguished host Sir. Lawrence Olivier. Tonight Sir Lawrence himself starred in H G Wells, Country of the Blind. (Fanfare) The National Broadcasting Company presents transcribed Sir. Lawrence Olivier in "Theater Royale" (Theme) This is Lawrence Olivier. Today's play is based on one of my own favorite stories, written by an author, who in his day, foretold many of the miracles, which today we treat as common place. H G Wells. This particular story deals, as so many of his others, with the world of his imagination. I shall play the part of (Nunez) the man who tells the story. Here then is H G Wells, The Country of the Blind. (Music)

Additional information on this story available at this Web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Country_of_the_Blind also <http://www.online-literature.com/wellshg/3/>