

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1956.

## CHARACTERS IN RADIO PLAY



LOLAND HOLLAND, who plays Odioso, and Janie Wax, who plays his wife, will be heard tomorrow night over Y.A. stations in the M.R.A. play, "The Vanishing Island."

# "THE VANISHING ISLAND" ON THE AIR TOMORROW

The Moral Re-Armament musical play, "The Vanishing Island," which has gone round the world in one year, will be broadcast by all YA stations in New Zealand tomorrow, at 9.15 p.m. The author is Peter Howard, London journalist who captained England at rugby.

The principal parts are taken by Ivan Menzies, well known in New Zealand for his Gilbert and Sullivan roles, and Reginald Owen, the Hollywood actor. A cast of 60 includes Michiko Tanaka, the Japanese star of "Madame Butterfly."

Lewis Allen, the Hollywood director, Nico Charisse, one of the world's leading choreographers, Herbert Weiskopf, director of opera of the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music, and Thomas Peluso, former West Coast music director of the National Broadcasting Company of America, produced the play.

The singer Lauritz Melchior said: "The Vanishing Island" is a wonderful and original play. The idea, the music and lyrics will capture the hearts of men and nations."

"The Vanishing Island" is set in two countries — the island of Eiluph'mei ("I Love Me") and the land of Weiheit'tiu ("We Hate You"). It portrays with satire and humour the clash between smug, well-fed democracy and ruthless, purposeful dictatorship. The final act shows how unity is built between the two peoples — a change in one man, the King of Eiluph'mei, played by Ivan Menzies.

A Russian script just produced brought the number of foreign language translations to 15. With the aid of these scripts, half a million people in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe and America have followed the play in the theatres. Millions more have watched on television and listened on the radio.

"One of the best musical comedies London has seen for a long time," was Sir Beverley Baxter's evaluation.