

ROYAL TRIBUTE TO BRITISH FILMS

At Elstree Studios Sir Michael Balcan presents to Her Majesty producer Ronald Neame, Dir. Eric Fletcher, G.J. Latta and Robert Clarke, directors of Associated British Pictures in whose studios the British Festival Film "The Magic Box" is being produced. The film is based on the life of the man who built the first real movie camera, William Friese-Greene, played by Robert Donat, and the British Film Industry is combining to make it a worthy tribute.

In his camera (a copy of which Director John Boulting explains to Princess Margaret) Friese-Greene introduced a basic principle which we still use today. The story of how he built it will be the industry's contribution to the Festival of Britain - an example of the best that Britain can make in films.

This is a copy of Friese-Greene's first film - the grand-daddy of all British films.

And this the latest descendant of his "Magic Box" - a huge studio camera of today.

But now on Stage Two they're ready to shoot a scene. It's 21 years since the Queen - then Duchess of York - last visited Elstree. And now silence as Maria Schell and Robert Donat play the scene in which Friese-Greene plans his studio.

That's O.K. Now we go in for a closer scene.

Now, in her film costume, Janet Scott says it with flowers. The Queen's gracious interest is a real encouragement to the industry in its endeavour to maintain the high standard of British films.