

VARIETY CLUB LUNCHEON.

The Variety Club of Great Britain - Chief Barker Sir Tom O'Brien in the chair - meets to declare that popular star Frankie Vaughan its "Show Business Personality of 1957". The coveted Silver Heart Award which goes with the title is presented to Frankie by Janet Blair. It's the sixth year that the Club has been making these awards, which today rank with Hollywood's "Oscars" among the greatest honours of show business. Now David Tomlinson presents the Silver Heart for the year's best actress - Yvonne Mitchell.

David Tomlinson: "Ladies and Gentlemen - it's no pretending I'm not absolutely astounded to be here, but of course, I am. My best friends are flabagasted, even my mother who has a very exaggerated idea of my importance, she scans the Birthday Honours every year - she stamps with rage when I'm not on them - even she was very surprised to know that you'd asked me to come here today. You are kind - really! (Laughter) Two fleas were hopping in the Haymarket Theatre in the direction of Sir Ralph Richardson's dressing room. And one flea said to the other, you know I don't really like this - it's a bit sort of grand - the Haymarket Theatre - I'd feel more at home at the Windmill. And the other flea said - don't worry old chap, you'll be alright on the (K)night! (Laughter) It gives me the greatest pleasure to present an award for the best actress of 1957, for her performance in "Woman in a dressing gown", to Miss Yvonne Mitchell"

A successful playwright as well as a stage and screen actress, Yvonne Mitchell has proved herself one of the most gifted of Britain's stars. Another star receives the double honour of an Oscar (specially flown from Hollywood) and a Silver Heart - Alec Guinness. Mike Frankovich makes the presentations. When Guinness was a boy, experts told him he'd never make an actor. After the war, they were still telling him he wasn't the type for films. Oh well, that's show business!

Alec Guinness: "I am, of course, most grateful and honoured to receive this heart and also to receive the Oscar. But first of all, I would like to explain my appearance today. I've come straight off the Embankment - just down the road, and I know I do look rather like the state of the British Film Industry if the Tax isn't taken off!".....