

## **"Shakespeare's Second Bananas" to be presented by Eric Christmas**

**April 14, 1969**

"Shakespeare's Second Bananas," or "Eric Christmas Takes an Affectionate Look at Will's Vaudevilleans," will be presented by a veteran English actor at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, April 18, in Sherwood Hall, La Jolla.

Eric Christmas, trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, has, in his words, played most of Shakespeare's "second bananas" during his thirty years in theatre.

Now a senior lecturer in the Department of Drama at the University of California, San Diego, he has in recent years acted extensively at the Stratford Shakespearean Festival as well as on the Broadway stage and in such outstanding television specials as the Hallmark Hall of Fame and Talent Associates.

Christmas explained the term "banana" is from burlesque and vaudeville, where the top star is top banana and the lesser, but very necessary, comics are called second bananas. In this one-man show, he interprets several such secondary characters by presenting various motivations for their actions.

In a recent interview, Christmas likened the theatre to Lewis Carroll's garden which Alice saw through a tiny door at the end of a long corridor, stating "the evening in the theatre should seem one tiny segment of a fascinating life"--the audience should feel that a character in a drama wanders down another path of that magic garden.

Scenes from this garden, many of the "wonderful little people that scuttle through Shakespeare's plays," make up the program that Christmas has prepared for the Sherwood Hall presentation.

The program is presented by the UCSD Committee for Arts and Lectures. Reserved seating will be \$3.00.