

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN MITCHELL (1918-2001)

It was with a huge sense of loss and sadness that the member of the Émile Zola Society learnt of the death of Norman on March 19.

Norman had a remarkably rich and varied career as an actor, which began in 1937 with the Sheffield Repertory Company with hundreds of appearances on the stage, on the radio and television. His versatility was legendary, ranging from Shakespeare and Ibsen to slapstick in such fabled productions as “The Great St Trinian’s Train Robbery”, “Oliver”, the Carry-On series, “Brief Encounter” and “The Pink Panther Strikes Again”. He worked on more than 500 radio broadcasts but was even more in evidence on the small screen with more than 2000 appearances, including parts in “The Saint”, “Dad’s Army”, “On the Buses”, “Are you being served” and, in his speciality role as a copper, in “Dixon of Dock Green”, “Maigret”, “Dr Who” and “Crossroads”. Members of the Émile Zola Society will remember him and miss him greatly for his indomitable spirit, his inexhaustible fun of anecdotes, his expansive humour and his moving dramatic readings. His memory will always remain with us.