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PRETORIA NEWS

# 'MUSIC AT MIDNIGHT'

PRETORIA AUDIENCES will have a chance of seeing some of the better-known professional actors on the local scene when "Music at Midnight," a tense drama played out on both sides of the Iron Curtain, opens for a limited season at National Theatre on Monday, October 24.

Heading the cast is George Korelin, one of our most versatile show business personalities. He is equally at home on stage or screen or behind the microphone and he will need no introduction to radio listeners.

Fans of "The Creaking Door" will be able to see Mr. Creaking Door himself in the person of Louis Ife, who is one of the busiest men in South African show business.

This is a farewell appearance for Geoffrey Morris, who can boast a theatrical career that stretches back over the last 30 years. He is leaving South Africa to return to England and a starring role on British television.

Elliot Playfair, who has made a name and reputation in England and Kenya, makes his South African stage debut in "Music at Midnight." He has already proved to Johannesburg audiences that he is going to be

a great asset to South African theatre.

In the cast are Vaughan Scott, whose career has included directing, stage, radio, television and films, and Ivor van Rensburg, well known as a cabaret and musical star. Ann Russell, Kevin Basel and John Ramsbottom likewise need no introduction to theatregoers.

The play is by Peter Howard and Alan Thornhill, and Robert Longford directs for M.R.A.-Modern Theatre Productions.

## CHOICES

"Music at Midnight," for which the booking is at Booking Services, is described as a subtle and exciting play which dramatises with humour and humanity the choice facing leaders on both sides of the struggle.

What should the Western Prime Minister do when a dictator moves tanks into a satellite country to suppress a rising the Prime Minister himself has fostered? How is he to deal with the embittered young leader of the rising who is flown out to



"Music at Midnight" — a scene in the home of the Chief Minister. From left to right are the Chief Minister (George Korelin), his son (John Ramsbottom), the rebel leader, Nils (Vaughan Scott), and the Minister's wife (Margery Dickie-Clark).

meet him with the Ambassador? What part can his wife play? Does his friend, the newspaper owner, help or hurt the nation in the hour of crisis? What is to be the fate of the family left behind in the occupied country?

• The play takes the audience through an exciting 24-hour period of international tension.