

RICH LITTLE'S SPECIAL

Four awards for Christmas show

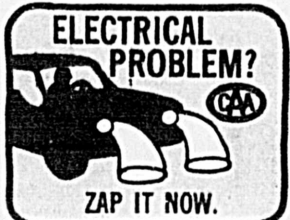
by AL COLLETTI
NEW YORK (CP) — Whether it's playing Scrooge or Robin Hood, Canadian comedian Rich Little has lots of plans after his spoof of the Charles Dickens Christmas classic won an international Emmy award.
Commonwealth Television Productions swept the four awards announced on Monday night by the International Council of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.
British television dominated with three winners.
Rich Little's Christmas Carol, a CBC television special aired last December, was awarded an international Emmy in popular arts, one of two new categories.
Co-producers Norman and Gayle Sedawie, Canadians living in Los Angeles since 1965, recalled that they started out with Little at the CBC in 1954.
"Now, 25 years later, it's great — it's a silver anniversary," said Gayle Sedawie, who phoned Little in Ottawa with the good news.
"Rich is thrilled," she said in an interview. "We have a movie we're working on now with Rich and a number of specials we'll be doing with him."
"Rich said, 'OK, now it's time to work on Robin Hood,' doing all the characters. We have an album coming out now, Rich Little's Christmas Carols, the soundtrack album."
Christmas Carol was taped

in Vancouver in November, 1978, and completed in six days with crews working 14 hours a day.
"It was incredible," said Norman Sedawie. "Rich played 14 different roles in the hour-long show. The editing was probably the most complicated that I've ever seen."
The husband-and-wife team produced more than 1,000 programs in 25 years of television. Norman Sedawie is a native of Vancouver. His wife and their three children were born in Toronto. They have kept their Canadian citizenship.
British television won the international Emmys for drama, documentary and performing arts.
On Giants Shoulders, produced by Mark Shivas for the BBC, won the international Emmy for drama. The film is the story of a British couple, Leonard and Hazel Wiles, who adopted a thalidomide boy, Terry, born without arms and legs.
In the documentary field, Yorkshire Television Ltd. won with a filmed expose of alleged mistreatment and cruelty in a maximum-security British mental hospital. The film was called The Secret Hospital, Part I, Rampton.
Another British television company, Allegro Films, won the new performing arts Emmy for Elegies for the Deaths of Three Spanish Poets. The film, directed by



LITTLE

Christopher Nupen, is based on Cristobal Halffter's three orchestral pieces written in honor of the poets who died in the Spanish civil war of the 1930s.
The CBC had four finalists among the 12 voted by the international academy after a record 79 entries from 14 countries. The United States is excluded from the competition because it has its own Emmy awards.
The Medium by Gian Carlo Menotti, Oscar Peterson —





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RECORDS from **POLING STONE**
by DAVE MARSH

THE KINKS: Low Budget (Arista) 3 Stars.
Low Budget begins with Attitude, a blast of high energy noise so streamlined that it seems like Ray Davies has regained the touch he lost when he became a camp nostalgist. He wanders from that promise soon enough — although Superman, the rock-disco hit, comes close to reviving it completely — but all in all, this is probably my favorite Kinks record since they stopped recycling Louie Louie. And that was a long time ago.

COMMODORES: Midnight Magic (Motown) 4 Stars.
What are these guys about? Could be a more coherent version of the black rock band George Clinton keeps trying to assemble. Could be the Temptations as instrumentalists — they've got the right dance steps on the back cover. Might be, given the AM success of Sail On, they've just found a formula and are working it to death — but it's a terrific formula, and their variations on it make it better.

BOBBY BLAND: I Feel Good, I Feel Fine (MCA) 3 Stars.
This is not up to the standard of Bland's classic work for Duke, but it is the bluesiest recording he's made since then, and the Monk Higgins arrangements have a smoky ambience that is perfect for Bland's soul crooning. And believe me, you haven't heard Red Sails in the Sunset until you've heard Bobby Bland sing it.

CARLENE CARTER: Two Sides to Every Woman (Warner Bros.) 1 Star.
Stick with last year's model. Carter's first album, produced by Nick Lowe (now her husband) and featuring the Rumour as the backing band, was arch but rocking. This one, produced by Lance Quinn and Tony Bongiovi, is pure formula pop product, mediocre songs meeting cliched arrangements for a quick ride to obscurity.

LONNIE BROOKS: Bayou Lightning (Alligator) 4 Stars.
Brooks, the former Guitar Jr., who hit with Family Rules on the Fifties R & B charts, is now an older, wiser bluesman featured on both Alligator's three-record Living Chicago Blues anthology and this solo set. Voodoo Daddy, which kicks off this set, establishes Brooks' claim as a master Chicago blues guitarist, and a fine vocalist, and the rest of the record (particularly Alimony and In the Dark) lives up to its beginnings. Who else could make I Ain't Superstitious seem anything but an overworked cliché? (Available from Alligator Records, Box 60234, Chicago Ill. 60660).

FREDDIE JAMES: Get Up and Boogie (Warner Bros.) 3 Stars.
Get Up and Boogie is disco, but it's also the kind of charmingly trashy dance song that has always made black pop music so fascinating — there's nothing compelling about it except James' own self-involvement as he sings. The rest of the record is equally trashy, and almost as much of a kick.

(Records are rated from one star to five in ascending order of quality.)
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