

## Cecil Parker

As popular with British audiences as American audiences, dour, imperious, gritty-voiced Cecil Parker entertained international audiences for over fifty years. Equally at home with 'heavy' roles as light comedy and slapstick roles, Cecil Parker's droll delivery was highly prized as a perfect counterpoint to comedies, mysteries and powerful dramatic presentations alike.

Born in East Sussex, England, Parker undertook his first Stage appearances in 1922 following his World War I service in His Majesty's Scottish Guard and receiving the Mons Star with his unit. Honing his skills over the next three years of journeyman acting 1925 found him appearing regularly at stage venues in London's West End.

A succession of supporting roles in early sound film soon found him a highly sought after character actor in increasingly prominent roles, culminating in a series of hits on both sides of the Atlantic between 1945 and 1955.

Parker is most fondly remembered among radio fans for his role as the quixotic, imperious Dr. Morelle in the BBC Light Programme classic, *A Case for Dr. Morelle*, one of the era's more perfect marriages of performer to character. Cecil Parker perfectly embodied the character, long after becoming the only actor to remain inexorably associated with Ernest Dudley's fictional sleuth.