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THE ARTS

Heidi returns to the small screen

A NEW English language version of "Heidi", the age-old children's favourite, is to be screened by BBC Television.

The 26 part series, shot on location in the Engadine resort



Johanna Spyri, author of *Heidi*, one of the most popular children's books ever written.

of St. Moritz, will be shown on Thursday evenings starting on October 2.

It is not the first time the BBC has screened dramatisations of Johanna Spyri's novel. In 1959 the corporation put on a version directed by Joy Harington starring Sara O'Connor, a half Irish, half Austrian actress, as Heidi. The in 1974 a six part dramatisation by Martin Worth was televised.

And now this new series — a co-production between Germany, Switzerland and Australia.

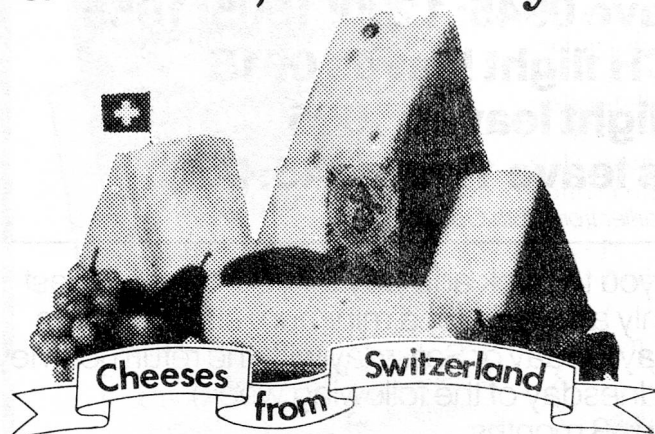
"Heidi", which tells the story of a young Swiss orphan who is taken to live in the mountains with her hermit-like grandfather, was first published in 1880 in German. It was translated into English by Charles Tritten who wrote the two sequels — "Heidi Grows Up" and "Heidi's Children".

Since its publication there have been 90 editions, 42 in English.



Katia Polletin who stars as Heidi in the new television series to be screened on BBC from this month.

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