

South Bank Halls

THE two new concert halls which, together with the Royal Festival Hall, will form the major part of the South Bank Arts Centre, were given a press preview on Tuesday afternoon and journalists were able to form an opinion of the interior of the building. The exterior is decidedly utilitarian in appearance and the general foyer, with its white marble floor, television screen-shaped windows and concrete pillars, is not unlike a vast ice-palace out of space fantasy.

The larger of the two new halls, the Queen Elizabeth Hall, will seat 1,100 persons on one single raised level, with soft black hide seats framed in aluminium. The stage is designed in a series of sections which can be moved vertically by electrically-operated rams, and consists altogether of 13 sections, each of which can be adjusted to a maximum of six feet above floor level. If a chamber opera were to be performed, two sections of the stage move to below audience level to provide a pit for the orchestra, and instruments can also be loaded on this section to transport them from the store to the stage.

Balconies have been provided for television cameras, but the entire audience will be seated in the body of what is actually a very large

hall. Sight-lines are good as a result of the varying heights of seat support and the acoustics have been designed, with the aid of resonators, to absorb the low-frequency sound. Though primarily for music, this hall will be used for other events, including conferences and cinema shows and for this purpose a film-projector has been installed.

The smaller Purcell Room will seat 372 persons and has a stage suitable for the presentation of small chamber groups, with the front seats "wrapped round" the edge of the stage to help fledgling artists acclimatise to a kind of drawing-room atmosphere.

BACK-STAGE

Back-stage accommodation in both halls is spacious, with shower, lavatory and dressing facilities for the soloists and a green room adjacent to the stage.

John Denison, general manager of the halls, said he is trying to establish a pattern of programming so that the public may know what to expect on any day, and he plans to use the intimate setting of the Purcell Room for Sunday Poetry Readings, as the hall is an ideal size for this type of entertainment.

The three halls will thus be complementary to each other, providing a home for all types of music-making.

WILDE AGAIN

BASIL DAWSON's comedy "A Murder of No Importance", presented by Prospect Productions of Cambridge at the Arts, Cambridge, on Tuesday last, shows how hazardous it is to adapt Oscar Wilde. Based on his story "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime", the play is intended to be a frivolous romp with a decadent air. But much that was daring or outrageous in the 1890's is hackneyed, or even tedious, now; and the adaptor has hampered Wilde's wit with many patches of a more laborious humour.

Lord Arthur Savile, acting on a palmer's advice, tries hard and without success to commit a murder before he gets married. Blatantly the plot is just an excuse

for assembling an unlikely assortment of characters — fantastic aristocrats and zany in roughly equal proportions. In such an artificial piece of inconsequence style is everything, but there is not enough of it in Toby Robertson's production.

While Robin Archer's design and costumes delight the eye, but some of the acting lacks finesse. David Hoskins strains hard to present Lord Arthur convincingly, while Hugh Laing, as his brother, is sadly out of touch with his part. Heather Chasen makes an attractively mannered society queen and Janet Hargreaves, as the gawky, hearty daughter of the Dean, is very amusing. James Cairncross is a superbly unfrilled butler, and Michael Rothwell, Stanley Lober and Donald Bisset also provide some very entertaining moments.

Obituary

NEVILLE McGRAH

NEVILLE McGRAH, died suddenly in Sheffield on January 19, aged 32. He was well known as musical director, teacher and composer and collaborated with Tony Tanner on a number of projects and reviews. He recently worked at Bromley, Dundee, Sheffield, Cheltenham, Bristol and was musical director for a season at Windsor. With Tony Tanner he was responsible for the revival of "Look Who's Here" and for a musical version of "Thieves' Carnival," seen at Cheltenham, and he wrote a score for the touring production of "The Entertainer."

ERNEST JAMES

ERNEST JAMES, the violinist, died in a Southend-on-Sea hospital on January 20, aged 76. Until three months ago he had been working with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company and in the past had played with the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and was at one time with the Carl Rosa Opera Company.

ELVIRA HOVENDEN

ELVIRA HOVENDEN, the musician, died on January 2. Cousin of Valery Hoveniden, she played in the Sadler's Wells Orchestra and for "Toad of Toad Hall" at Stratford-upon-Avon, and provided the incidental music for many productions by the Hoveniden Players. She was the original Fidler in "Mr. and Mrs. Punch in Person", which was so often seen in the London parks.

'The Insiders'

A COMEDY by Stuart Gilman, "The Insiders", is to be directed by Jean-Pierre Voo and designed by Janet Roberts, when it is presented by International Theatre at the Mercury on February 6.

SEVEN STUDENTS of the Northern College of Speech and Drama, Oldham are to appear in "The Hollow Crown" by John Barton, directed by Ronald Harvi, at the College for a short season of Sunday evening performance starting on February 5.

ROBERT PALMER directed "The Thin Yellow Line" at the Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford, for Caryl Jenner's Unicorn Theatre for Children.

NEW MOBILE THEATRE



Nesta Howe, administrative director of the Welsh Theatre Company, Jennie Lee, Minister for the Arts, and Professor Gwyn Jones, chairman of the Welsh Committee of the Arts Council, inspecting the model for a proposed Mobile Theatre for Wales.

They are holding the shell of the theatre, which is made of folding aluminium. The auditorium will seat 350 people and it will take five men eight hours to erect the theatre. It needs a clean hard site, with water and electricity laid on. The entire theatre set-up, including dressing rooms for the company, a kitchen unit with refreshment area and toilets for the public, travels in five articulated trailer trucks.

Last September the Welsh Committee of the Arts Council commissioned Sean Kenny to prepare a feasibility study on a Mobile Theatre for Wales. He consulted specialist firms, discussed the matter with relevant organisations in Wales and inspected Welsh sites on which the theatre might be expected to operate. He produced a report, together with the model which was shown to Jennie Lee.

CALL Continued from page 2

CASTLEFORD: Crystal Bowl Club (Bernard Hinchcliffe). — Valerie Masters.

CHESHIREFIELD: New Carlton Club (A.T.S.) — Z.Racra, Maureen & Michael, Dolly Set, Dennis Day Trio.

CLETHORPES: Beachcomber Club (Burnett-Silk). — Paul & Janita.

COVENTRY: Coventry T.C. (Newsome). — "The Pied Piper of Hamelin", Frankie Vaughan, Norman Vaughan, Freddy Davies, Sonny Jones, Wendy Wicks, Dennis Paul, Francelly, Judy Bowen, Michael Barnes, Dominic Jephcott, Anna-Lou & Maria, Coventry Theatre Ballet, Derek Taverner Singers, Coventry T.C. Children's Ballet.

DERBY: Station Inn. — Michael Roy, Vic Dale

DONCASTER: Masquerade (Outstanding Attractions). — Lena Storme.

GLASGOW: Seals Club. — Winnekes, Lynne Perrie, Roy Dell, Tony Cargill, Tassie & Diana, Eddie Swaine & his Music.

DUNFERMLINE: Carousal Restaurant (G.T. Knight Ent.). — Dinah Kaye.

DURHAM: Gaiety Club (Newcast). — Johnny Lister.

EASTBOURNE: Congress. — "Howard's End", Gwen Watford, Gemma Jones, Michael Goodcliffe, Andrew Ray, Joyce Carey, Michael Culver (Stephen).

EDINBURGH: Kings (Howard & Wyndham). — "Goldilocks and the Three Bears", Jimmy Logan, Alice Dale, Jill Howard, David Eilen, Bob Temple, Eugene Denham, Mike Manger, Jan Morris, Elizabeth Lawson, Warren Devine & Sparks, Norman Mac Dancers, Arthur Blake Singers, Pace Puppets, Gerald O'rch.

GLASGOW: Albion (Howard & Wyndham). — "Cinderella", Stanley Baxter, Lorraine Donegan, Ronnie Corbett, Lyn Kerrington, Paula Hendrie, Jamie Smith, Miffie & Tony Hulbert, Graham Seane, Kallman Glass, William Redmond, Louisa Vaughan, Peter Darrell Dancers, Arthur Blake Singers, Gerald O'rch.

GLoucester: Establishment Club (Burnett-Silk). — Judy Ward, King's (Howard & Wyndham). — "The Black and White", "Mistral Show", Mitchell Minstrels, Denny Willis, Palermo & Phillips, Reg Thompson, Morfido Trio, Mitchell Mads, Television Toppers (Luff Mitchell).

Metropole (O. Logan). — "Skiff of the Pines", Clark & Murray, Alexander Brothers, Durnate & Denzar, Freeman, Vi Day, Anne Jamieson, John Corrie, Danny Kegan, Colin Stuart, George Reel, Billy Little, Moton Ladies, Braemar Ladies Pipe Band.

GLoucester: Dolphin Club (B. Forrest Ent.). — Peggy Raw, Mike Wyndham Trio.

GREASBROUGH: Social Club. — Wee Willie Harris, Dan Bailey, Benny Britten, Deven & Ivy, Stroniboll & Sylvia, Jackie Ramsay, Kingston Trio.

GREAT YARMOUTH: Touring Ballroom. — June Lupton, David Woods, Michael Cashman, Norman (166) Fields, Vivienne, Danny MacMillan, Trevor Coopers Orch, Freddie Morrison Trio (C. W. Frome).

HOCKLEY HEATH: Burn Restaurant (B. Forrest Ent.). — Bill Maynard, Graham Delley & his Orch.

Huddersfield: Top Ten Club (A.T.S.). — Denville & Marjorie, Geraldine Farrar.

HULL: New (Stephan). — "Towards Zero", Patricia Temple.

KILGINGLEY: Social Centre (A.T.S.). — Tony Cawley, Gayle Mitchell, Denville & Marjorie.

Kettering: Flamboyant Club. — Jackie Rogers (S. Tozer).

LANGLEY GREEN: Regent Variety Club. — Rod Whitaker, Mike Adams, Maxine Day, Al French, John Speak & his Music (H. Dennis).

LEEDS: Ace of Clubs (A.T.S.). — Tassie & Diane, Benzo Dog Duo Band, Don Mundy.

City Varieties (A.T.S.). — Dolly Belle, John Hinde, Shirley Mansell, Tricia Stone Dancers, Janette Lee.

Aladdin. — Johnny Hackett, Yana, Billy Dainty, Morton Fraser, John Hinde, David Brown, John McKennie, George Keibitt, Sally Denham, Patrick Adams, Mousie Barnes, Bel-Canto Singers, (Arnold/Delfino).

Seacroft Social Centre (A.T.S.). — Caroline Shaw, Bill Kelly, Eddie Braun, Danny Eckstein.

Shutcliffe Social Club (A.T.S.). — Vince Eager, John Hinde, Roddy Miles, Wendy King.

Victoria Hotel (A.T.S.). — Mimi Graham, Windmill Club (A.T.S.). — Vince Eager, Wendy King, Tony Heath.

LEIGH: Gaiety Club. — Rockin' Berries, Monty Sisters, Peter Robinson, John Anthony, Dennis Johns, Roy Hastings, Jacksons Restaurant. — Colin Crompton, Julie Rayne.

LINCOLN: Sportsmen's Club (J. Haynes). — Joe Bundy, Christine Clatfield.

LIVERPOOL: Albion's Litherland T.C. Club (A.T.S.). — Karl Denver Trio, Johnnie Lee Roy, Hyman, Mike Donohue, Robin Brett, Calvert Club. — Monty Sisters, John Anthony.

Empire (Mos). — "Merry King Cole", Dusty Springfield, Charlie Carroll, Paul & Barry Ryan, Peter Goodrich, St. Plummer, Pat Lancaster, Petala Munro, Elizabeth Ayle, Neil Phelps, Peppi Pouppe, Bel-Canto Singers, (Arnold/Delfino).

Royal Court (Howard & Wyndham). — "Tom Thumb", Jimmy Clitheroe, Nat Jackley, Gordon & Bunny Jay, Rastelle, Shakespeare Restaurant. — Carl Denver Trio, Three Belles, Ross & Piquet Spanish Dancers, Peter Kay.

LOUTH: Kingsway. — "Dick Whittington", Ben Ward, Barbara Jackson, Laurie Montgomery, Julian Joy, Dennis Wadlington, Pat Sisters, Joy Clifford, Dick Robin, George Whittaker, Agencia Youngs Ladies, Janice Sutton Juveniles.

MANCHESTER: Mersey Hotel (A.T.S.). — Gerry Stevens, Nancy Whiskey, Peter Norfolk.

Opera House (Howard & Wyndham). — "The Bachelor Show", The Bachlors, Ray Fell, Mike Yarwood, Bob Williams, Mike Burton, Lucky Lanes, Bar & Dancers, 16 Tiller Girls, Starlighters, Gerald O'rch.

Palace (Mos). — "Babes in the Wood", Mike & Bernie Winters, John Hanson, Desmond Walter-Elis, Alan Curtis, Keith Kelly, Peter Goodrich, St. Richards, Gerald Marlin, Douglas Thompson, Noel Gordon, Victor de la Varie, Val R. Smith, Winesap's Babes, (Arnold/Delfino).

MARCH: Cabaret Club. — Mel Peters (S. Tozer).

Cellar Club (J. Haynes). — Duo Versus, Dolly Belle, Dolly Set.

Station Hotel (V. Rawlings Ent.). — Shane, Billy Street, Steve Martin, Peter Day, Tony Dowling.

MONK BRETON: Social Centre. — Helen Allen, Lena Storme, Sep Jones, Reed & Deffy, Hubert Selby & Terry Hopkins.

MORECAMBE: Winter Gardens (Mos). — Theatre Closed.

NELSON: El Tropico (Continental Casino). — The Untouchables.

NEWCASTLE: Flamingo Club (Newcast). — Jo Grogan, Michael's Club (Newcast). — Jo Grogan, Royal (Howard & Wyndham). — "Oliver!", Sandra Wells, Audrey Woods.

NORTHAMPTON: One-O-One Club. — Harbour Lites.

NOTTINGHAM: Royal (Mos). — "Puss in Boots", Ronnie Leach, Bobby Collins, Becca with Brenda Bosworth (V. Rawlings Ent.).

OXFORD: New (Dorill). — "Dick Whittington", Sad Flamingo, Charlie Naughton, Eddie Gray, Stephanie Voss, Clifford Henry, Veronica Page, Ken Wilson, Jack Excut, Sandra Wells, Leslie North, Vera League Children, Bel-Canto Singers, (Arnold/Delfino).

PETERBOROUGH: Cabaret Club. — Renee Barr.

PRESTON: Club Royale (A.T.S.). — Sammy Thomas, Paul Denver.

RYTON (CO. DURHAM): Kingsway Country Club (Newcast). — David Fallon.

SCARBOROUGH: Two B's Club (A.T.S.). — Alan Fox.

SEAHAH: Kingsway. — Tony Stewart, Terry Milligan, Johnny Blackham Trio.

SHEFFIELD: Lyceum (Howard & Wyndham). — "Cinderella", Dickie Vahalingam, Cardew Robinson, Joe Black, Jimmy & Brian Patton, Pamela Gale, Patricia Kilgarriff, & Barry Ryan, Tommy Layton, David Silver, Allan Barnes, Joan Collins Children, Bel-Canto Singers, Fossett's (Arnold/Delfino).

SKEGNESS: Golden Buttery Club (B. Forrest Ent.). — Garland Sisters, Tony Melody, Peter Hurley, Mick Millington, Bob Cole Dancers, George & Dermot Trio.

SOUTHPORT: Kingsway Casino. — Kaye Sisters, Leonard Weir, Nelson First Girls.

SOUTHSEA: Kingsway. — "Dick Whittington", Ben Ward, Barbara Jackson, Laurie Montgomery, Julian Joy, Dennis Wadlington, Pat Sisters, Joy Clifford, Dick Robin, George Whittaker, Agencia Youngs Ladies, Janice Sutton Juveniles.

SPENNYMOOR: Variety & Social Club (Outstanding Attractions). — Susan Lane, Alan Olive, Paul Wood.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES: Club Flamingo. — David Whitefield, Terri King, Judy Moxon, Don Harper.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON: Royal Shakespeare. — Royal Ballet.

SUNDERLAND: La Strada. — Bobby Pattinson, Ray Kelly Quartet.

Ro-Ko-Ko. — June Arnette, Roger Squires, Ray Moore Trio.

SUTTON COLDFIELD: La Reserve. — Rod Whitaker, Leslie Adams, Maxine Day, Brian Sharpe, 5 Showgirls (H. Dennis).

SWANSEA: Grand. — "Robin Hood", Marty Wilde, Ivor Owen, Danny O'Dea & George Truzzi, Joyce Baker, Smart & Tracey, Peter Thorne, Marvyn Bur, Rosemary Faith, Jennifer Haley, John Hay, Cherry Willoughby Dancers.

TORQUAY: Princess (Delfino). — "Aladdin", Baron Knights, George Bolton, Gavin Gordon, Billy Burdick, Jepp Maynard, Mary Dell, Robert Marlowe, Jenny Vance. (Salberg).

WAKEFIELD: Ace Club (A.T.S.). — Los Zafiro, Shirley Mansell, Tricia Stone Dancers, Jackie Ward.

Kettlehorpe W.M.C. (Hargrave). — Leslie Peters, Bruce Allan Bobby Rich, Kon-Tiki Club (Bernard Hinchcliffe). — Wise Willie Harris.

WARRINGTON: Towers Club. — Rockin' Berries, Colin Crompton, Julie Rayne, Pat & Bobbie Leach, Bobby Collins, Becca with Brenda Bosworth (V. Rawlings Ent.).

WEST HARTFPOOL: Riviera Night Club. — Gale Boys, Max Stewart, Reg Powell Trio.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE: Chestnut Club. — Francis (Parker Ent.), Wobblington Country Club. — Denise Carrol.

WHITLEY BAY: Pickwick Club (Newcast). — Dorothy Denton.

WIDNES: Regency Club (Continental Casino). — Ken Goodwin, Jimmy Hampton, Toni & Torrie Maudslayi.

WORKSOP: Ace of Clubs (A.T.S.). — Z.Racra, Lenny Bennett, Maureen & Michael, Dolly Set.

YORK: City Arms Hotel (A.T.S.). — Los Zafiro, Dorothy Dunne.

OVERSEAS

ADELAIDE (AUSTRALIA): Her Majesty's (J. C. Williamson). — "Fanny Girl".

BANGKOK (THAILAND): Yard of Ale. — Sam Scott, BARCELONA (SPAIN): Tropicana Club. — Fireflies (Parker Ent.).

BRISBANE (AUSTRALIA): Her Majesty's (J. C. Williamson). — "Fanny Girl".

CYPRUS & EL ADEH: Combined Services Entertainment. — "Lorne Gibson Show", Lorne Gibson Trio, Johnny Ball, Bobby Cook, Lesley Dawson, Gloria Anderson, Jack Flatts.

DURBAN (SOUTH AFRICA): Mayfair Hotel. — Jack Beckett (Kekeli-Grade).

JOHANNESBURG (SOUTH AFRICA): Alexander T.C. — Ian Hamilton (Kekeli-Grade).

MALAYA & SINGAPORE: Combined Services Entertainment. — "Fun and the Fair", Kenny Cantor, Miss Joan Rhodes, Annie Bright, Betty Gilmore, Maurice Paley, Jeff Macey.

MALTA: Bonidoli Inn (Continental Casino). — Ken Roland, Roy Rivers.

MELBOURNE (AUSTRALIA): Comedy (J. C. Williamson). — "The Odd Couple".

NEW ADELAIDE (SOUTH AFRICA): Lido Restaurant (McIlwraith). — "Blue Magic", Benny Denton, Ken Littlewood Trio, Irene Bevan, Noel Hanlon, Paul Gavin Burt Skene, Lido Girls, Miss Lido.

Nairobi (KENYA): New Avenue. — Suzi Miller (Kekeli-Grade).

NEW YORK (U.S.A.): Belasco T.C. — "The Killing of Sister George", Beryl Reid, Eileen Atkins, Lally Bowers.

SOUTH AFRICA: Touring. — Max Byrnes Show, Chas McDevitt & Shirley Douglas, Barry Sisters, Bob Monks, Roy & Toadfish, Barry Kent, Dudman (Kekeli-Grade).

SYDNEY (AUSTRALIA): Doncaster T.C. Restaurant (Associated Prods.). — The Red, White & Blue Revue, Sheila Bradley, Maggie Stuart, Barry O'Dowd, Bill French.

Her Majesty's (J. C. Williamson). — "Sweet Charity".

Phillip Th. (Atter/Phillip Prods.). — "Lav", Alastair Duncan, Diana Davidson, Mark McManus. — "The Cactus Flower".

Tivoli (Atter/G. H. Carroll/Phillip Prods.). — "Alice in Wonderland", Kathleen, Gorman, Max Oldaker, Barbara Wyndon.

TURKEY: U.S. Bases. — Manhattan Three, Jeanette Leach, Bobby Collins, Becca with Brenda Bosworth (V. Rawlings Ent.).

LANCASHIRE & YORKS. Clubs (Parker Ent.). — Toni Parker, Yassin, Virginia Mao.

London Clubs & Hotels (Parker Ent.). — Martin Charles Orchestra, Roy Benjamin Trio, Gallimore Trio, Ann Kean, Wendy Fox, Betty Barry & her Teenage Dancers, Carole West, Les Bryant, Zorits, League of Gentlemen, Stacey Circle, Master Sounds, Sounds Anonymous.

MISCELLANEOUS

Comberland Clubs (Parker Ent.). — Doreen, Candy Cole, Gaynor, Grimby, Clevechops & Lines. Clubs (Carroll Ent.). — Kathie McLean, Kim Korrens, Ken Reed, Blue Jays, Del Viking

Five, Raven Trio, Bernard Cummings, Ces Smith Quartet, Penman Four, Roger Bourne & Barbara, Overton, Jackie & Atlantic, Gervint Catchum, Fella, Arnold Mason Trio, Brian Kenny, Ricky Walton, Ben Grant Five, Pauline Laybourne, Allan Clarke, Carmela, Arty Deacon, Mike Simmonds.

MASSACHUSETTS: Mike Simmonds, Sinters, Foundation, Colin Monk Five, Discotes, Crescendos, Budd Ladd, Maureen & Freeways, Mabs Day, Veronica Dean, Dick Piesant, High Society Jazz Band, Barbara Robinson, Jean Tyler & Gordon Holdom, Marie Chris Reed, Lisa Jones, Tia School, Eile Kinnan, Chas, Swades, Northern Show Group, Lanes & Midlands Yemas (V. Rawlings Ent.). — Paul Fox & Anne Cole Younger, A'Dell Brothers, Starlines, Ann McKay.

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W. D. CRAIG, Registrar

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