British singers, designers, conductors, prominent in next Garden season

BRITISH singers, designers and conductors are prominent among the artists announced for the 1968-69 opera season at Covent Garden, and the British opera "Hamlet" by Humphrey Searle, which received its premiere in Germany will be performed during the season. £10,000, roughly two-thirds of the total cost of mounting "Hamlet", has been contributed by the Friends of Covent Garden, the largest contribution from a private source ever to be donated to Covent Garden Opera.

"Aida" with Gwyneth Jones, Charles Craig and Faith Puleston, a young British singer making her Covent Garden debut.

Later in the month, Margaret Price will sing her first Pamia in a revival of "The Magic Flute", with a cast including Stuart Burrows, David Ward, Delme Bryn-Jones as Papageno, and a Dutch Queen of the Night, Christine Deutekom, appearing for the first time here. Elizabeth Vaughan, Jean Bonhomme and belme Bryn-Jones will be in the revival of "Madama Butterfly" and, in November, Joan Carlyle will sing her first Marschallin in "Der Rosenkavalier". Yvonne Minton will be repeating her cast will also include Elizabeth Robson and Michael Langdon.

"MANON"

The first new production will be "Manon Lescaut" in November, with Marie Collier in the title-rôle, Stuart Burrows, Bott Ilos-floty, Stuart Burrows, Robert Massard and Forbes Robinson, and the production will mark the Covent Garden debut of the Ungarian tenor, Robert Ilos-falvy. Tom Lingwood will be sponsible for designing this opera, Ande Anderson for the production and the conductor will be Istvan Kertesz.

"Carmen" will be revived in Marie Collier, Renato Cotto, Ilong of the first Pamia in a revival of the recent production of "Die Meisters and will be in January January and will be followed by a new production of "Die Meisters and will be in January January

Increased costs, generally, means that only three or four new productions can be mounted, and two of them, "Manon Lescaut" and "Die Meistersinger", will make partuse of existing costumes or scenery to assist in economising.

The season will be shorter than usual, running from September until July of next year, because of the visit of the Bolshoi Ballet later in July. After the two cycles of "Der Ring des Nibelungen" in September that to be revived will be singing the first work to be revived will be singing the season of the visit of the Bolshoi Ballet later in July. After the two cycles of "Der Ring des Nibelungen" in September and early October, the first work to be revived will be singing the first work to be revived will be singing the first work to be revived will be independent of this revival and franco Tagliavini will sing Gilda and the Duke in the revival and franco Tagliavini will sing Charles Craig and Faith Puleston, a young British singer making her Covent Garden debut.

Later in the month, Margaret Price will sing her first Pamina.

Later in the month, Margaret Price will sing her first Pamina.

and the Canadian baritone Victor Braun, who will sing the title rôle.

In May there will be a revival of "Simon Boccanegra," with Elizabeth Vaughan, Carlo Cossutta, Peter Glossop, Delme Bryn-Jones and David Ward, and Birgit Nilson will sing the title rôle in a revival of "Elektra" conducted by Solti, with Marie Collier, Regina Resnik, and Donald Methytre also in the cast. Jon Vickers, who sang Peter Grimes at the Metropolitan last season, will be making his first appearance here in the part when this opera is revived later in May, and Heather Harper will be heard as Ellen Orford, Further performances of "Aida" will be given during May and June, this time with Martina Arroyo as Amneris,

The last new production of the season will be Gluck's "Orfeo" in June, which will be conducted by Solti and produced by John Copley, with Kenneth MacMillan as co-producer and choreographer. Yvonne Minton will sing the title rôle and the other principals will be Pilar Lorengar and Elizabeth Robson.

Communist society

THE praise given to the recent production of Fernando Arrabals "The Labyrinth" presumably encouraged students from the New College of Speech and Drama to attempt Arrabal's one-acter, "The Condemned Man's Bicycle" on July 25. The play is a reflecting mirror of life in a Communist society and is a difficult subject for students to attempt as the symbolical nature of the writing calls for subtle acting, which with one exception, the young actors in this production do not as yet possess. The exception was Clive Whiteley who, as the pathetically downtrodden clown Viloro, displayed the right kind of helplessness. Mr. Whiteley's little man runs foul of big brother because his desire to play the piano showed him capable of individual thought and action, giving the actor a chance to use his hands most expressively. According to the product of the product of

'Janie Jackson'

THE heroine of Robert P. Hillier's "Janie Jackson", at the New, despises Alvin, her idle, stupid husband; she has married him, and works for him at their broken-down farmstead in the Deep South, only because this means escape from an even more lonely and poverty-stricken life. Janie keeps her bedroom door closed against him, longs for a red dress she has seen illustrated in a catalogue, dimly looks for a new life of hope and happiness.

Alvin introduce Bart, a big handsome man, as an employee, though in view of the seediness of the farm this is ridiculous, But the atrival of Bart not only changes Janie's life but Alvin's too, and leads to a very happy ending. Bart makes love to Janie; buys her the red dress; leaves the farm; returns to find his child by Janie he bright the child to be tiss, or a become to the first of the farm than for her.

The processes of development and revelation in these people are in the first of the work of the seediness of the seedines of the seedines of the first of the seedines of the first of the seedines of the first of the seedines of the seedines of the first of the seedines of the farm this is ridiculous, But the atrivial of Bart not only changes Janie's life but Alvin's too, and leads to a very happy ending. Bart makes love to Janie; buys her the red dress; leaves the farm; returns to find his child by Janie he bright to the seedines of the se

Actors come to town

IMPATIENT to start work, the seven Birmingham based actors of Ace High Theatre have brought their production of "The Glass Menagerie" to the Little, where they started a week's run on Tuesday, hoping to arouse some professional interest in the metropolis. With the courage of youth, they have shown themselves unafraid of the intrinsic self, and the performance searches to the LETTER BOX DeARTMENT.

The Stage" Office, 19-23 Tavistock in the Carrier Box DeARTMENT.
The Stage" Office, 19-23 Tavistock meleope orpoetly stamed and addressed.

A Ashford Herman Balse. Clarier Chesney, Alex Grasshoft Michael Little Chesney, Alex Grasshoft Michae

Wodehouse at **Blandings**

WHY has it taken so long to bring P. G. Wodehouse to the stage? The question springs from the first showing of John Chapman's adaptation of the Lord Emsworth stories, which was given its premiere at Manchester Opera House on Monday evening under the title "Blandings Castle".

Mr. Chapman has concentrated much of the essence of the Emsworth chronicles into a fatige compact whole, ending with strange carryings-on in his Lordship's bed-carryings-on in his Lordship's bed-carrying-son in his Lordship's bed

CALLS - continued from page 2

GLOUCESTER:
Central Park Theatre,—Susan Maughan & U.S.A. backing, Tony Clown Keel, Janette Listers Dancers (D. Mitchell).

SENSATIONAL BARGAIN OFFER!

WHO'S WHO IN THE THEATRE

es; Notable Productions; Long Runs; Details of London and New York Theatres; Playbills. 1,594 pages. Published at £5.5.

FOYLES BARGAIN PRICE: 30/- (post free)

W & G FOYLE LTD (DRAMA DEPT) 119-125 CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.2

WILLIAM H. BUTLER, manuscided on July 29, having been associated with the one theatre for the whole of his life. As a boy of four-teen he started helping in the office voluntarily in the days when the Playhouse was partled assistant to the manager of partled assistant manager by 1940, when the theatre was closed for the war. In 1947 he was invited to return as business manager, His widow, Marie Butder, has been in the Playhouse box office for a number of years and manages the theatre cafe.

OBITUARY

BILL BUTLER

TESSA CLOUDESLEY SMITH faint shadows of familiar bits of

Symbolism and fantasy

has written about social and human relationships in "Peasants Is," a two-act play with a cast of three. It is a play of symbolism and fantasy concerned with a very young idealist ready to die for a cause, his exploitation by those he is eager to trust and his unbalanced attitudes to emone, is stretched beyond breaking point and any interest evoked by has divided away by the end of the first net. A spate, a positive torrent of words pour from the central character, Gram. Unfortunately most of them are trivial in content and repetitious, with the cool, throw-independent of the first net. A spate, a positive torrent of words pour from the central character, Gram. Unfortunately most of them are trivial in content and repetitious, with the cool, of the major with the cool, throw-independent of the first net. A spate, a positive order to be improvising an insufficiently reheared script.