

NEWS

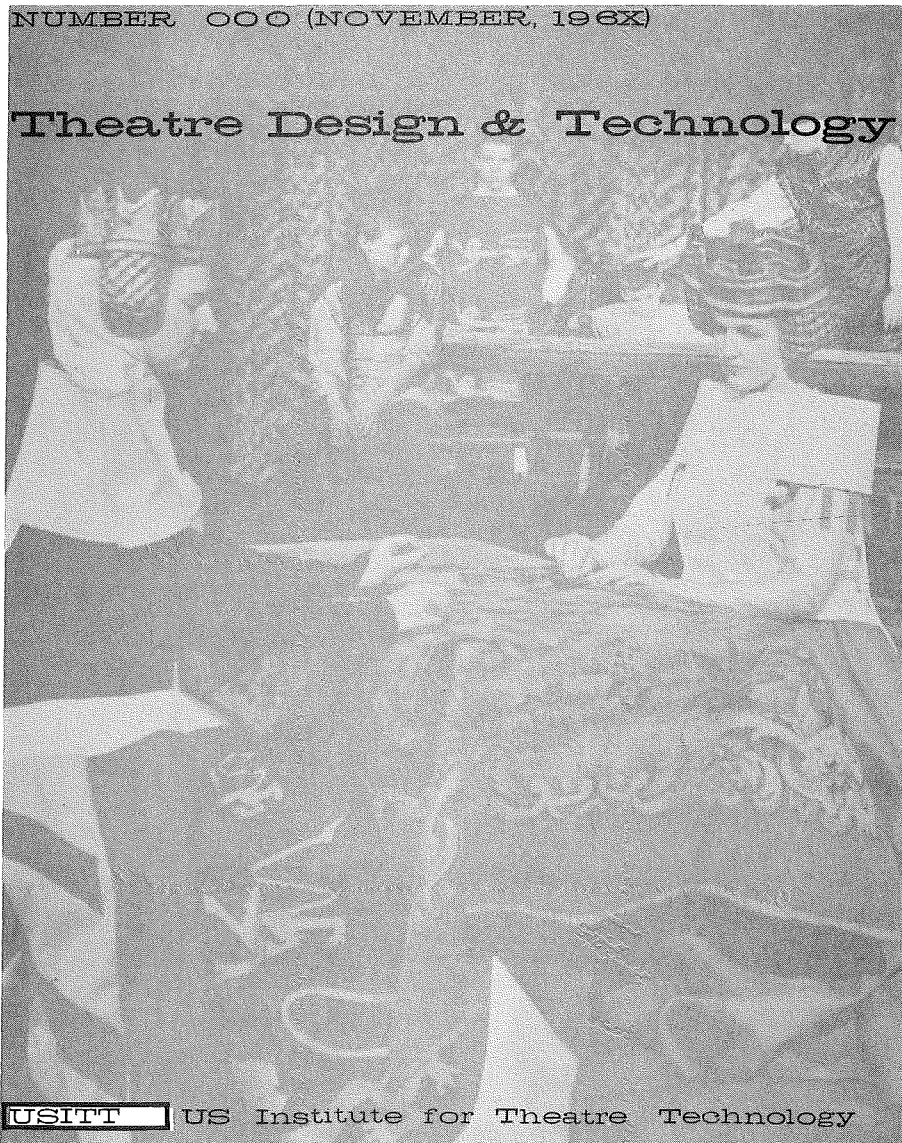
USITT

LETTER

U. S. INSTITUTE FOR THEATRE TECHNOLOGY, INC. · BOX 866 · RADIO CITY STATION · NEW YORK 19

Jay B. Keene, Editor

April 20, 1965



#### USITT PUBLISHES JOURNAL!

The Institute is now proceeding with the printing of Volume 1, Number 1, of its Journal, THEATRE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY, which should be available for the Annual Conference this May. This "long-awaited dream" has finally come to be a reality after five years of struggle by many members of the Institute. Ned A. Bowman, the editor of the Journal, states that the publication will occur four times a year and will contain several long articles as well as shorter regular features. The format is  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$  and will have about 36 pages printed by photo offset. There will be as many graphic illustrations as space will allow.

The scope of the Journal includes the range of interests set forth in the Institute's statement of policy:

"The Institute's first concern is for the physical aspects of the theatre, as its architecture, engineering, administration and the basic conditions of presentation. All these phases stand obviously at the service of the final fruition in the theatre, the presentation itself, where the skills of actor and playwright and director are the most conspicuous, aided by all the intricate collaboration of the stage through services of the designer, costumer, lighting designer and the various technicians."

All members of the Institute are encouraged to submit manuscripts for consideration for publication in future issues of the Journal, for only by receiving a multitude of material can the Editor keep the standards of the Journal high.

#### FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Don't forget the Conference to be held on the 30th of April, May 1st and 2nd at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. This is the first time a Conference has been held away from New York City, so it is hoped that many people from the mid west and west will be able to attend. Reservations should be made by using the Conference Registration form which can be obtained from Dr. Donald H. Swinney, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York. Hurry, hurry, hurry!

#### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Notice to all members: Dues should have been paid by April 15. Any member who has not sent in his payment by May 15, 1965, will be dropped from the rolls of the Institute. The Institute would like to note that in addition to its individual members, dues are also paid by a generous group of Sustaining Members who help to make the publication of this Newsletter, as well as the forthcoming Journal, possible. The Institute now has a Sustaining Membership category in the Architectural and Engineering class as well as the Manufacturing class, and extends a hopeful invitation to the many architectural and engineering firms to join the Institute, so that with their aid we can accomplish more of our objectives.

#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Most of the permanent committees of the U.S.I.T.T. hold regular monthly meetings in New York City. Any member from outside the City who is in town is welcome to attend any Committee meeting which is in session during the time of his visit, as follows:

Engineering- the first Tuesday of each month

Holophane Light and Vision Institute  
1120 Avenue of the Americas (Entrance on 43rd Street)

Architecture- the third Thursday of each month

The Offices of Holge Westermann (16th floor)  
111 West 57th Street

Administration- The third Wednesday of every odd numbered month

Hunter College, Artist's Room #142  
69th and Lexington Avenue

Executive- The last Thursday of each month

ANTA Board Room, ANTA Theatre (5th floor)  
245 West 52nd Street

#### NEW CHAPTERS

The USITT has expanded its boundaries to allow for a Toronto Chapter which was recently installed by the unanimous vote of the Executive Council. Congratulations to Wallace Russell who has worked so hard to achieve this aim. The next chapter may soon be in the Chicago area. During the recent AETA Convention held in Chicago, a Steering Committee was appointed by Dr. Joel Rubin, USITT President, to determine the feasibility of forming a Chicago section of the USITT. The members of the Committee are Mr. Frederick Buerki of the University of Wisconsin, Mr. Theodore Fuchs of Northwestern University, Mr. Gerry Marx of Illinois Lighting Associates, and Mr. Albert M. Koga of Hub Electric. Several meetings have been held this winter to discuss organizational procedures. Anyone interested in the organization of a Chicago section should contact one of the above members of the Steering Committee. California, it's your turn next.

#### THEATRE CONSULTANTS LIST

Members of the Institute are advised that a Theatre Consultants list will be published in the near future. All fields of Theatre technology will be included in this listing. A notice will be sent to members when such publication has taken place.

#### NEW THEATRES

SAN DIEGO- In January San Diego opened its 3000-seat Civic Theatre. In opening its new theatre San Diego joins a fast-growing list of cities that have renewed their downtown areas with cultural centers. Recently, Los Angeles unveiled its 3250-seat Pavilion, first building of a \$33.5 million music center. The theatre will house all manner of events, from theatre to ballet to opera. If a more intimate atmosphere is required for a play, the two balconies and rear of the orchestra can be curtained off leaving a 1200-seat orchestra. Other multimillion-dollar cultural centers are being constructed in Trenton, Saratoga Springs, Milwaukee, Washington and New York.

BOSTON- Boston recently dedicated its new War Memorial Auditorium. The new building is adaptable to many functions. It contains a large exhibition space and an auditorium with 4000 temporary floor seats and 1836 permanent balcony seats. A stage 88 feet high and 42 feet wide was designed for theatrical performances, including opera. A film projection room is in the balcony. Other mechanical features include an automated cloakroom, adjustable acoustical ceiling panels, and a "slotted" stage floor that allows scenery to be stored in the basement and raised on stage as needed.

EVERYWHERE- A wide-ranging plan for constructing at least 30 legitimate theatres across the country is being developed by Roger L. Stevens, White House adviser on the arts. The theatres would be in suburban shopping areas where there are adequate parking and transportation facilities. Each theatre would have about 1000 seats and could be built for \$750,000. Mr. Stevens said that he is thinking in terms of prefabrication to reduce construction costs, and that by having theatres of standard design, scenery could be constructed in each city for at least a fifth of what it would normally cost. Edward Durcell Stone, the Architect, has been commissioned to design the prototype of the theatre.

#### THEATRE SURVEY

The ever growing U. S. Theatre Survey Project has found a home with Miss Carol Hoover, 5 Bronson Ave., Scarsdale, N. Y. Miss Hoover reports that among the many cards returned so far, 30 theatres for live performances, built since 1960, have been recorded as follows:

- 2 with 3000 seats or more
- 1 with 1000 seats
- 3 with 700 seats
- 14 with 400-700 seats
- 9 with 200-400 seats
- 1 with less than 200 seats.

Any member who knows of a recent theatre structure should file a Survey card with Miss Hoover at the above address, so that this listing will be definitive. In time, the Survey will publish lists of the theatres by region and by size and type. It is hoped that these lists will become useful tools for theatre consultants and architects.

#### TECHNICAL NEWS

An interesting meeting of the Engineering Committee was held at Pete Feller's Scenic Studios this winter for a tour of the shop and to witness a demonstration of the vacuum forming process for making scenic elements. Any type of three-dimensional scenic detail can be reproduced in translucent or opaque vinyl material which may be painted with latex or casien paint.

The process first requires the fabrication of a positive mold which can be as large as four feet by ten feet with a thickness of up to twelve inches. The forms at the Feller Studio ranged from rather simple brick patterns to highly detailed rococo panels. The form is then placed on a jig that has a vacuum producing apparatus below. A sheet of thick vinyl material is then heated by an electric oven overhead until it is soft. This soft fabric is then lowered onto the positive form so that the vacuum can pull it tightly around all the surfaces of the mold. After a minute to cool, the entire formed sheet is removed to be trimmed and painted. The entire forming process takes about four minutes.

Mr. Arthur Glickman, Sales Manager for the Vacuum Form Studios, said that in addition to many stock panels he would produce various other architectural details such as columns, cornices, doors and their frames. For further information write to Mr. Arthur Glickman, Feller Vacuum Form Studios, Inc., 68 East 153rd St., New York 51, N. Y.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Ben Schlanger, Consulting Architect, has been appointed consultant to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on all phases of motion picture exhibition. All four halls in the Center - the theatre, opera house, symphony hall and the newly added Film Theatre, have been designed in such a manner that the most modern projection equipment can be used if desired. Mr. Schlanger stated that the Kennedy Center will not only be able to show every type of film art which has proven itself today, but will also be sufficiently flexible to exhibit new methods that give promise of permanence. Mr. Schlanger feels that the use of cinematic film projection techniques should also be applied to the legitimate theatre as a more effective way of presenting scenic effects, so that any well equipped theatre should perhaps include provisions for front or rear projection equipment.

Marvin Gelman of Lighting Services, Inc., whose executives are former theatre or television men, stated at the annual Display Convention this winter that the introduction of dimmer controls for store windows was being spurred by the "growing awareness of the dramatic, theatrical approach to window display".

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Many requests for change of address are received. These corrections are processed as rapidly as possible, but may we point out that it may take three or four weeks before changes may be completed.

ANTA ASSEMBLY

May we call your attention to the annual ANTA Assembly to be held this year at the Hotel Commodore, 42nd Street at Lexington Avenue, New York City, April 25, 26, 27, 28.

The theme of the Assembly is "THEATRE U.S.A.: Problems and Prospects", and is based in part upon the nationwide study of the performing arts recently made by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

Included among the sessions are the following:

- "Professionalism and the University Theatre"
- "Artistic Direction and Business Management in the Theatre:  
Conflict or Cooperation"
- "The Future of the Playwright in the American Theatre"
- "The Future of the Actor in the American Theatre"

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This Newsletter is made possible by the following Sustaining Members:

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