

Cue is an independent magazine published bi-monthly by Twynam Publishing Ltd.

Available on subscription £7.50 per annum (6 issues)  
Overseas subscription rates see page 29

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Our cover shows the actdrop for Wilkie Collin's play 'The Lighthouse', painted by Clarkson Stanfield (1793 - 1867). Above, his portrait. His great contributions to the English theatre are discussed on page 4.

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# CUE

## Technical Theatre Review

2.

November - December 1979

### Spear-carriers forward

By some curious concatenation of euphoric circumstances (thank you, Mr. Leonard Sachs) this issue contains news and comment on the opening or re-opening of three theatres, the Wolsey at Ipswich, the Opera House at Buxton and the Lyric at Hammer-smith. All of which is encouraging for architects, contractors, suppliers of equipment, civic dignitaries and their committees at large, but may prove less so for managements, actors and actresses, authors and a public more or less agog with apathy. 'What is the good,' a director we know said once, 'of having a live theatre if the audience is so obviously dead?'

Certainly what we gather from the weirdly eclectic schedules of forthcoming attractions we have to hand is that managements are working very hard at the business of running with the hare and hunting with the hounds. the Hare being related nostalgically to the late, loved and lamented Robertson of that name. And the Hounds being, of course, the post-punk ultrasonic Country & Western group now causing a sensation in Little Rock (Arkansas).

Perhaps what causes this disorientation is a lack of new scripts for new plays by new people. This is a good reason for CUE to join the Evening News and Thames Television in sponsoring the London Student Drama Festival. Entries for plays, entertainments or whatever will be accepted up to December 1st this year; selection of student productions will be by members of the Companies at the Young Vic, the Royal Court and the Riverside Studios; and the culmination of events will be the staging of eleven of the most meritorious productions, during the Festival Fortnight from February 18th - March 1st 1980, at University College's elegantly functional Collegiate Theatre. Concurrently there will be workshops, discussions etc. in all the disciplines of theatre work, from playwriting, through directing and acting, to coping with the Collegiate's basic lighting rig of 200 lanterns.

There is still time (just) for any budding Peter Hall, Peter Shaffer or Peter Nichols to participate and alert his relatives. Although the Festival is not a competition CUE is providing two special awards, one for lighting and the other for sound.

The three efficient and enthusiastic student organisers are Graham Frost, Jane Gibbings and Eric Graham and more information and tickets can be obtained from them (not us please) at U.L.U. Building, Malet Street, London WC1 7HY telephone 01-580-9551.