

# Diary of a Stage Designer

ROBIN DON accompanied the Society of British Theatre Designers Exhibition to Tokyo recently. While there he was invited to visit the National Theatre Nougakudo which houses the Japanese Noh plays. We are indebted to Sadahiko Tachiki, Technical Director, for permission to use several of the pictures taken from the official brochure.

The first week of rehearsals for *Tamerlano* in LYON had been a busy one. A glance at my watch told me it was Friday and I remembered Sunday's entry in the diary had TOKYO underlined. Time to get moving, I thought.

I had been looking forward to this trip, it was to be my first to the FAR EAST. My mission was to set up the exhibition of models of Theatre Designs from the British entry that had recently been showing at the Prague Quadrennial. The exhibition is making a world tour organised by the Society of British Theatre Designers and the British Council. Members of SBTB have to make themselves available to supervise at each venue. I put my hand up for Japan.

Breathlessly, I caught the plane. It was midnight when we landed in FRANKFURT and it almost seemed like a hijack when fifteen or so rather butch unsmiling ladies stormed into the cabin wielding their vacuum cleaners. Little did I know that the night was to hold more.

KARACHI 4 a.m. — A very much more polite team arrived and the vacuum cleaners were quieter. The dawn was beginning to break at the stop-over in BANGKOK but there appeared to be twice as many vacuum cleaners. One wouldn't have minded but the plane didn't look at all dirty. Seven hours later we have a rather bumpy landing in MANILLA. This was to be an overnight stop till the morning flight to TOKYO. I'm afraid I missed whatever exotic entertainment that was to be found there and collapsed into bed.



*A quiet haven in the heart of bustling Tokyo.*

SUNDAY 4 p.m. — This must be TOKYO!

A charming young Japanese designer eventually met us. She was understandably late because of an understandable traffic

*The harmoniously textured auditorium allows instant focus on the acting area.*

