

schemes for flying, curtains, safety curtains and grids as well as being agents for most other theatrical supplies. **LANCELYN LIGHTING** who aim to serve schools and other financially hard pressed customers showed their basic wooden rostra and a low cost music stand. For fixed and removable sheet flooring **LE MARK** offer their usual range of single and double sided sheet vinyl, either self adhesive or with adhesive tape to stick it together and LeMark Safety-Track, a new "super-safe" non-slip floor tile. **CRAIG-LOUTH ASSOCIATES** are another flooring company who are proud to have supplied the Miss World shows and the Royal Variety Performance. **HARLEQUIN THEATRE FLOORING** also offer sheet flooring and specialise in sprung floor systems for dance. Their 'Harlequin-Rhofa' shock-damped floor demonstration was well appreciated by foot-weary visitors to the show.

Other specialist suppliers included the familiar **RAT MANUFACTURING** top quality range of professional music stands, **NERVA METALS** with a range of sheet metal including mirror finish aluminium and new flexible 'Metalrib' aluminium strip on a strong paper backing. **GERRIETS** showed scene painting brushes and setting-out aids. **FLINT HIRE AND SUPPLY** showed their extensive range of small ironmongery and paints and pigments for the scenic artist. **N and I COSTELLO** specialise in PVC materials including slash and shimmer materials with overprinted designs, all fireproofed for stage use. **VARIA TEXTILES** showed some of their enormous range of inherently non-flammable and fire proofed materials for scenery, costumes and furnishing. **PACKMAN RESEARCH** caught the eye with a working demonstration of continuous rain effect behind a window using their snow shower machine, glitter and a recirculating pump and also showed samples of their Formis vacuum moulded scenic panels. **DAUPHINE STAGE HIRE**, another newcomer, supply costumes, materials, makeup and drapes in the Bristol area and will soon be opening a London office. And if you want a box to put things in **FRONTLINE**



Show organiser Roger Fox receiving a Hook Clamp from Fred Bentham on behalf of Douglas Cornelison.

CASES made their first visit to the show with their range of craftsmen made specialist custom cases.

Services

Many of the products at the show are obtainable from various agents as well as the manufacturer and many of the companies noted for their own products also stock items from another manufacturer as a service to their customers and, of course, because it's good for business, but these deals are usually negotiated with the condition of not offering rival products. **DON-MAR** however, have set out to stock the widest possible range of products, with competitive items offered side by side for comparison and the convenience of the customer, so bringing the supermarket approach to theatre marketing.



Charles Morgan of Modelbox Ltd demonstrating the award winning computer aided design system printing a drawing.

And finally, in this section, a list of supporting but indispensable small part players – prop maker **JOHN BATTYE** had his "On the Make" display in the foyer; **BOOK BAZAAR** (Phone 01-352 6810, not as wrongly listed in the show guide) offered their range of second-hand technical theatre books and magazines; **JOHN OFFORD** promoted his rival to this magazine; and the **ASSOCIATION of LIGHTING DESIGNERS**, the **STAGE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**, and the **ASSOCIATION of ENTERTAINMENT AND ARTS MANAGEMENT** all had stands to promote their activities and to recruit membership.

Intermission

At lunchtime on the first day of the show the ABTT presented, as usual, awards for best product, best stand and technician of the year. Sufficient to say here, that **WHITE LIGHT** received the stand award and

DOUGLAS CORNELISON, won the technician of the year hook clamp for his work in developing the Central School Stage Management B/Tech course. Much more interesting for this review was the winner of the product award – **MODEL-BOX**.

MODELBOX is a system of computer aided design tailored to the special needs of theatre, television and exhibitions. Computer aided design allows all the precision and detail of engineering drawings to be stored in memory and displayed on the screen or drawn on paper far faster than possible by hand. It can also work out perspective views from different viewpoints, predict lighting cover and show the effects of small or large changes in dimension or layout. The equipment used is expensive so you have to go to them at their Shaftesbury Avenue office but you can then expect rapid service and with luck and some preparation can have the final result within hours. The RSC have used the system to fit ground-plans to various theatres on tour, the BBC has used it to explore camera angles in a complex three-dimensional set, and it has been used by many others to, for example, work out complex truck movements and **TRIPLE E** have full dimensional details of all their hardware in memory to speed their own and customers design planning. Perhaps, one day every production office will have its own CAD computer but, until the cost has made another major leap downward, hire of proven facilities from friendly competent experts is in the best theatre tradition. A well deserved award.

Act 2. The Lighting Products

Lamps

There were four specialist firms this year offering deals to supply all your lamp needs. **DC LIGHTING** of Reading made their first appearance offering friendly personal service and the best possible discounts, but then so did old friends **VALIANT**, **SLD** and **ACTION LIGHTING**. As a promise for the future Ron Merchant at **SLD** was able to show a pre-production M16 lamp

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