



*MacRobert Theatre. Main auditorium during performance of The Barber of Seville by Scottish Opera.*

not be restricted to the drama; that this is a dramatic *and* lyrical theatre is evidenced by the appearance of *Scottish Opera*, *Prospect Productions* and *Scottish Theatre Ballet* all within its opening month. And the programmes for the last quarter of 1971 include examples of practically every possible form of visual, musical, theatrical and cinematic art.

How will the building cope with all this? Is there a vast stage with complex machinery and a memory switchboard controlling a multi-saturation lighting rig? No. Just a goodly-sized proscenium-framed flat space with an ingenious twin-wedged pit/fore-stage. Twin auditorium lighting bridges and side slots give the right lighting angles yet the lanterns can be focused without acrobatics by this sixteen-stone electrician.

Lighting control is by a 100-way Threeset doing exactly the job for which it was designed. And as we now have a right to expect, this control, as well as the flexible sound and film-projection equipment, is housed in a suite of control rooms at the rear of the auditorium. (And also as we

expect—but not of right!—the ventilation system performs at a steady mezzoforte throughout.)

Wing space on the prompt side is perhaps rather restricted but is nevertheless generous in comparison with that of many touring theatres we have all known and on the OP it opens onto a goodly-spaced dock/workshop with paint frame. The dock-doors are a bit restricted because of an external walkway passing right round the theatre, but it was pleasing to note that the theatre technical staff seemed to think it quite right and proper to sacrifice a couple of feet of get-in door in favour of a panoramic view of the Ochil Hills. They get their priorities right in Stirling.

Also with access to the workshop area is the 200-seat studio—just a flat rehearsal room with portable (or should I say transportable) seating units and a correctly-positioned, all-round lighting gallery. Dressing rooms, of course, have windows, and Wow! the view. And for those who share my horror of the hanging blockage of the cinema screen in places like