

# TABS



Editor:  
RICHARD HARRIS

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13,000 copies of TABS are distributed to readers in theatre and TV technology around the world.

Our cover photo shows the interior of the Barbican Theatre, the new London home of the Royal Shakespeare Company.



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Correspondence and articles for publication should be addressed to the Editor.



## FROM JOHN CHESTER DIRECTOR OF RANK STRAND

John Chester recently joined The Rank Organisation as a Director of the newly formed Industrial Division to which Rank Strand Ltd. belongs. He is a Director of Rank Strand Ltd. and General Manager of the Lighting Division including our operation in Germany.

A Yorkshireman, he was educated at the Wheelwright Grammar School Dewsbury and Downing College, Cambridge where he read Mechanical Sciences. Following six years in Production and Data Processing management he moved into consultancy for seven years. In 1973 he became involved in the formation of the Medical Systems Division of E.M.I. Ltd. and was appointed Director and General Manager of the Brain Scanner Division of E.M.I. Medical Ltd. In 1978 he joined International General Electric of New York as Managing Director of their British subsidiary, D.M.R. Ltd.

As the international climate, whether economic or technological, moves, then so must individual businesses that contribute to the total scene change.

The Rank Organisation is no exception to this rule, and the

evolution of the Industrial Division, borne out of previous Rank divisional companies, is an important development in its growth philosophy. One of the companies within the Industrial Division is Rank Strand Ltd., perhaps the largest company of its type in the world and with a truly international reputation in all continents. It is a pleasure to me that The Rank Organisation is looking towards Rank Strand as one of its main industrial groupings for the future.

It is not possible for a company to plan to be stationary. It must look to growth, seeking new and unrealised markets worldwide, and, more importantly, satisfying those markets with products of quality and products which move with the times. 1981 saw the introduction of Galaxy, and a whole range of lanterns. I intend to ensure that the Company continues with innovations in all product areas including diversification, as we see with Environ. I believe that Rank Strand has every opportunity of meeting the potential as seen by our parent organisation as well as continuing to supply the needs of all of our customers worldwide.

I hope, that through TABS, we are able to keep all our readers fully aware of our moves in these rapidly changing times.

## "I MADE IT"

Tommy Morgan, who now looks after the Strand and Ianiro spares operation examines a very early Patt. 263 that he made in the old Vauxhall works some time in the early '60's. It was probably part of the original rig for "Oliver". It was the very early



Tommy Morgan with an original Patt. 263

sheet metal design before the properly tooled lanterns were introduced.

How did this come to light? It was one of the many lanterns returned to us under the part exchange scheme by which customers receive an allowance off their purchase of new Strand Preludes and Harmonys.

I also have a photograph, not for publication, of a skip full of competitors' lanterns which have also been handed in!

## STOP PRESS

As we go to the printers, news has arrived that Galaxy has been selected as the new memory system for the Royal Shakespeare Theatre at Stratford upon Avon. In our next issue we will have an article and photos plus a short piece of the original D.D.M. system that we put in to the theatre some 11 years ago.

## DUETS AND THE WORLD CUP

I suppose the Editor's interest in football is small enough to be, in the words of David Copperfield's medical student friend, "put in a wine glass and covered with a vine leaf."

However, his interest in Duet is considerable greater, and his interest in that proud and good humoured country Spain, even greater still.

The Spanish Television Service, RTVE, have ordered, from our Spanish distributor, Kremesa of Madrid, six 40 way Duets, each with 40 x 5kW MCM dimmers and standby desks for four studios in Madrid and two in Barcelona. The studios will cover news stories about the World

Cup, interviews with players and, no doubt, the odd bit of over confidence from various team managers.

The studio lighting — of course — is by Quartzcolor Ianiro.

These confrontations will probably not always be very illuminating, but they will certainly always be very well lit!

# FROM THE

## NOT SEEING THE ENGLISH WOOD FOR THE SPANISH TREES

Tied up with our own products as we at Strand inevitably are sometimes one of our agents comes up with a brief description that sums up the most complex piece of equipment in a comparatively few words.

While browsing the other day through "Disco International" — a magazine which I invariably read on the train disguised in a discreet brown paper cover — because although the magazine is, of course, excellent, fellow travellers could consider it rather odd that a man of my years and distinction would read such a youth orientated publication and might therefore suspect my motives — I came across the following quotation:

"T.F. Cabello the Managing Director of Kremesa Lighting — Strand's Spanish agent — described the Galaxy system that his company have recently installed in the Gran Teatro del Liceo in Barcelona — "the Galaxy, the first model to be installed in Spain, is one of the most sophisticated in the world and yet is relatively simple to operate thanks to the very flexibility it allows to the operator. It is fantastic equipment because at any given moment it allows monitoring of the lighting situation on all channels, including past and future effects. These effects can be fed in by a time programmer and this, coupled with a virtually unlimited memory and simplicity of operation make it a marvellous piece of equipment".

Thank you, Senor Cabello — you have summed up the system beautifully!



The Barbican's Strand Sound memory desk — and the Editor hears something that must have amused him over the Strand Sound headphones.