

THEY OBVIOUSLY HAVE QUIZZES ON FRENCH TV!



THESE pictures, sent to us by our French colleagues, Messrs Eclairux of Ivry, depict a recent completed installation at the VTF studio, Boulogne, which is a conversion of an old film studio built over 50 years ago.

The pictures show Tele-Stage self climbing hoists; a goodly collection of Quartzcolor luminaires; and a Rank Strand Duet with VDU and pin patch.

List of equipment:

Quartzcolor laniro:
4 x Vega 10kW spotlights
37 x Pollux 5kW spotlights
35 x Castor 2.5kW spotlights

6 x Polaris 1kW spotlights
4 x Antares 2.5/5kW softlights
16 x Iris 4 cyclorama top lights
8 x Iris 2 cyclorama top lights

Rank Strand:

1 x 120-way Duet 2 and pin patch
12 x 10kW MCM dimmer modules
12 x 5kW MCM dimmer modules
6 x 5kW MCM dimmer modules in each of four portable racks

Telestage:

12 x Self-climbing hoists with remote control. (These were installed in three days and three nights without any interruption to the work of the studio!)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A BIRMINGHAM MYSTERY EXPLAINED

Dear Richard Harris,

The existence of "G.B. Sunray" row end standards in the seating of the Birmingham Hippodrome, mentioned in 'The Editor's Journeys' in the October issue, is easily explained. It was a Gaumont British Theatre!

The actual owners were a subsidiary of General Theatre Corporation Limited, itself controlled by Gaumont British; in the early Thirties, up to thirteen other music halls were also owned by G.T.C., including the London Palladium, the Holborn Empire and the Alhambra in Paris.

In 1933 these halls and those of Moss' Empires Limited were placed under joint control, Gaumont British taking over the management of the Moss cinemas.

As from 1st January 1947 these cinemas were purchased by G.T.C., who sold their theatres to Moss from the same date.

Yours sincerely,
John Squires
Bedford.

by the South African Institute of Theatre Technicians (SAITT).

At the award ceremony at the Nico Malan complex Mr Jan du Toit, Deputy Director of the Cape Performing Arts Board (Theatres), who is also President of the SAITT, said it was "Gratifying to know that at least one supplier of theatrical equipment in South Africa has realised the value of the technicians behind the actor, singer or dancer."

The actual plaque was designed by Loraine Clements, an artist who is also the art critic of the Pretoria News.

John Baker has been with the Board for eight years and hails originally from Croydon back in England.

John's award was, of course, won using Strand equipment!

Yours truly,
Gordon Beattie
A.C.F. Merchandise
Johannesburg

NOT THE ONLY LADY

Dear Sir,

Regarding your article by Ms Hardman in the October 81 edition of TABS.

I would like to correct her belief that she is the only female graduate of the A.B.T.T. City and Guilds Theatre Technicians certificate. I completed the course in 1978 with another female technician, who was deputy at the "Comedy Theatre", and my flat mate, who is dayman at "Wyndhams" has also completed the course. I hardly imagine that we are the only female technicians to have done so.

As female technicians are by no means a scarce breed, I find it rather sad to see sentences like:

"Gail believes she is the only female graduate to date..."

Also, I certainly do not consider myself "older folk" for having spent a year and a half operating a grand master at the "Duke of Yorks"! Mind you, I still don't think you can beat a manual board. I have operated several Thorn and Strand memory boards, and I still think a Strand C.D. was the best operator's board ever made!

Yours sincerely
Wendy Smith
Chief Electrician
May Fair Theatre

SOUTH AFRICA



Dear Richard,

I am enclosing a photograph showing John Baker of the Nico Malan Theatre in Cape Town with his ACF Merchandise Theatre Lighting Designer's Award.

John is the Chief Lighting Designer of the Nico Malan and he received the award for his lighting for "Turn of the Screw", "Rigoletto" and "My Fair Lady".

All theatre lighting technicians working in South Africa are eligible for the award which is administered