

# Designers take the Stage at the Round House

What distinguishes the theatre designer from the artist who has taken up theatre as his subject is that whereas one is producing drawn and painted documentation of events and scenes already realised in performance, it is the designer who will have originated from script and score the stage pictures which will provide the effective environment for the actor and the director culminating in the final picture which the public will see in the theatre.

In this sense it is an applied art, providing the stimulus that enables the scene builders, directors and actors to achieve the right dramatic expression. Quite often these working drawings are themselves works of art and it is only to be regretted that in the past so few have seen the light of day outside the theatre.

A second major exhibit of Contemporary British Theatre Design is therefore a specially welcome event both for theatre workers and theatre goers. The exhibit is being held at the Round House, London NW1 from 24th February to 19th March.

The decision this time to produce an illustrated record of a selection of this

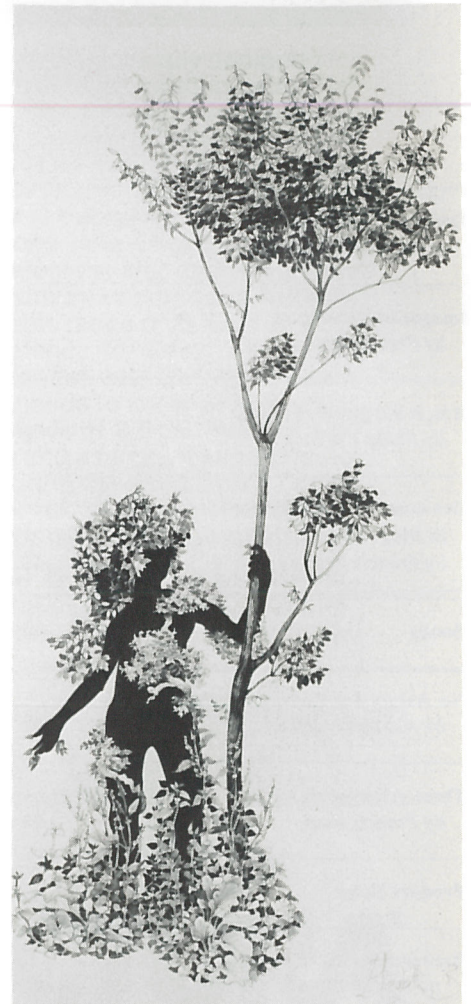
responsible and imaginative work is also a very happy one, especially for those unable to visit the exhibition.

In his foreword to the book, John Bury gives us this characteristically modest prologue to the work of his fellow designers. "Again we take the opportunity to lay before you the raw material of our art. It is for the theatre in performance that we design – these models, drawings, plans and photographs are but the means to that end. However, in themselves, they are also an enduring record of the labours, largely unsung, of the theatre designer. All of the work exhibited belongs to the last four years and has been selected personally by the designer involved. In this way we hope you will enjoy the wide spectrum of talent now at work in our theatre."

More than 100 art reproductions of models of set designs, photographs of set designs in performance and costumes, several in full colour, comprise the contents of this magnificent 64-page volume. Copies may be obtained at the exhibition, from the Society of British Theatre Designers or from CUE, price £4 including postage.



**Joe Vanek**  
*Terra Nova* by Ted Tally,  
Watford Palace Theatre, 1982



**John Bury**  
Designs for *Tree people*,  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Benjamin Britten  
Directed by Peter Hall  
Glyndebourne Festival Opera, 1981

**Alison Chitty**  
*Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare  
Riverside Studios, 1978

