

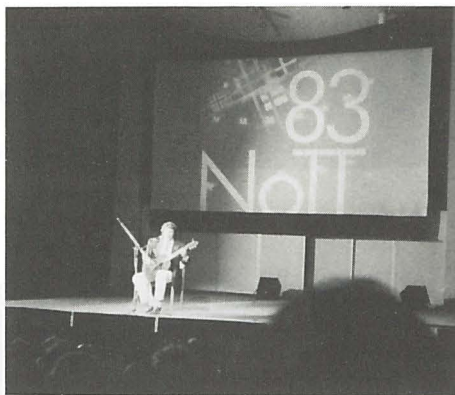


The foyers housed exhibits of design, architecture and all the many crafts that contribute to a theatre performance.

the various specialist disciplines — but were led by specialist speakers including the dozen invited guests from Britain and the United States.

Simultaneously a series of professional seminars explored in some depth the problems of specialist areas. The subjects were Architecture, Scenography, Stage Technology, Lighting, Sound, Work Environment, Stage Management, Props, Make-up, and Set Construction/Scene Painting.

NoTT 83 hosted a visit from the OISTT's Architecture Commission and so two evenings were devoted to a discussion on *From Room to Theatre* which aired once more all the predictable and unresolvable topics from



After the speeches at the opening ceremony of NoTT 83 the audience were entertained to a few songs.

Later, in mid-conference, there was a Gala Performance in the City Theatre. It is appropriate that a technical theatre conference should be reminded of the performer in this way!

passionate planks in black boxes through "why doesn't my theatre work" ("because you didn't tell us what you wanted") to sightline purity versus audience chemistry. But the pleas were eloquently put, and the fray was consequently stimulating. Especially as the simultaneous translation was excellent.

On the middle evening the City Theatre housed a Gala Performance which set new standards for conference entertainment — and demonstrated the need for flexible playable lighting rigs for one-nighters. A couple of comic stagehands provided con-

tinuity with a series of deliberate technical mistakes. There was a big band and production numbers from Cabaret plus all manner of performers including singers from the opera and dancers from the ballet. In a more technical vein, a UV scene was repeated in working light to show the mechanics and an actor did a Reagan transformation of demolishing accuracy using an on-stage make-up table. This was followed by the feeding of the multitude — all conference delegates banqueting together in a huge basement entered by one tiny door. Those of a nervous disposition were observed to join those addicted to regulations in seeking tables near the exits.

The manufacturers and their agents had turned out in force and their stands seemed so hyperactive from opening to closing that many had difficulty in doing that assessment of their competitor's product which is normally one of the main activities of the quieter conference exhibitions. But then the Swedish Minister of Culture, when performing the opening ceremony, had talked big money for housing the arts. And for once the lighting boys, though present in force, did not dominate!

The foyers also contained non-commercial exhibits on design, prop-making, costume cutting, make-up, architectural projects etc — indeed all specialities except lighting!

Well done the Nordic Countries — NoTT 83 was a splendid production. See you at NoTT 86

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