



Too good to be true, *James Plaston, Canada.*



Gold medal for Scenography, *Andre Aquart's Ondine, one of the French entries.*



Gold medal for thematic design to *West Germany's Maro Arturo Marelli for Jenůfa by Janacek.*



Silver medal for Scenography to *Italy, Maurizio Bato for The Damnation of Faust.*

names have come up in the last four years, but because of the many designers represented, each artist was limited to just one or two works. It was nevertheless possible to trace the basic trends of current Soviet design as continuing the traditions of the 70s—creating an integral and plastic image of a play to match the internal drama conflict, and a return, in this new phase, to the “one set for each act” principle of employing stage space. At the same time, the work of these young Soviet designers brings convincing proof of their search for the new, which will certainly contribute to the overall enrichment of Soviet stage design.

Recent years have seen a marked change in available training opportunities in stage design, geographically. Whereas, some time ago, designers were predominantly trained at the Surikow Institute of Fine Arts in Moscow and at The Institute of Theatre, Music and Cinematography in Leningrad, there are now design schools in other national republics (operating under the auspices of the Academics of Arts and Arts Institutes) in their capitals from Kiev, Riga, Tbilisi, Vilnius to Tashkent. Some very fine designs were on show and many received medals of honour. Several of the young Soviet designers were in Prague. As at previous Quadrennials, there was much socializing with the British team into the early hours.

#### FINLAND

There were medals for Finland also. The Theatre Architecture section here was particularly interesting. The new Opera House in Helsinki shows an exciting blend of solid flat concrete areas interspersed with large areas of glass which soar up into a conservatory-type roof in the foyer areas. Built by the side of a pool, the whole effect is extremely dynamic.

#### FRANCE

The Gold Medal for stage design was won by André Acquart, his work was consistently outstanding. Models and photos from four extremely stylish productions shone through. The most eye-catching being a production of *Ondine* at the Champs-Elysees Theatre, Paris 1982. The stage picture was convincingly like a half-remembered dream.

#### ITALY

Maurizio Balo gained the Silver for his striking set for *The Damnation of Faust* at the Teatro Comunale Di Bologna in 1982. A daringly clever design which achieved the effect of an infinite universe.

#### GREAT BRITAIN

There was no architectural entry this year but the high standard of work from the twenty-seven stage designers from Britain was greatly appreciated.

Students from the second-year theatre design course at The Central School of Art and Design performed a daily programme of lively “Design in Action” events. Wimbledon School of Theatre Design was represented by a splendid photographic display of recent work.

This is the third time we have exhibited at a PQ and the members of the Society of British Theatre Designers realize how great a contribution to international understanding and co-operation in the world of theatre and the arts is made at these exhibitions. Theatre design is not just an academic subject but reflects the cultural and artistic heritage of a nation.

To this end our exhibition was drawn from the very wide range of theatrical activities in Britain. We had work from our national companies and work from the regional theatres, from established designers and from those just starting their careers. We all joined in greeting fellow designers and architects from many lands in celebrating the Prague Quadrennial 1983. Twenty-four countries participated: Australia; Belgium; Bulgaria; Canada; Cuba; Czechoslovakia; Denmark; Federal Republic of Germany; Finland; France; German Democratic Republic; Great Britain; Holland; Hungary; Italy; Japan; New Zealand; Philippines; Poland; Soviet Union; Sweden; Switzerland; Vietnam; Yugoslavia.