



Visual excitement is given full opportunity in the foyers.

conferences) in the sixties but has in practice turned out to be something of a red herring in the quest for discovery of the true nature of audience/actor contact. Like so many restrained thrusts, it rapidly loses significance with every row that one is removed from it. However the auditorium is very comfortable, although I do find that the Australian preference for high seat backs in the upper regions seems to increase circle rakes, both in reality and in illusion, to a degree that causes me personal unease when

I sit there.

With a proscenium of 12.09m x 8m, the stage has a depth of 12.47m (without thrust) and there are 70 flying sets. There are three good foh lighting bridges (at 9.5, 13, and 18m throws to the stage) and a pool of equipment which includes:

- 180 x Silhouette 30
- 48 x Silhouette 15
- 20 x Silhouette 10
- 27 x Harmony fresnels

- 30 x Castor fresnels
- 12 x Iris 4
- 12 x Pallas 4
- 15 x 12-circuit spotbar sections (4.5m)
- 6 x 6-rung trackable ladders
- 2 x 8m perch ladders
- 6 x 6m booms

The sound system is based on a 12-channel mixer with eight assignable outputs and two quadrophonic panners. There is a fixed loudspeaker system in walls and ceiling with additional sockets for portable speakers in the ceiling and at the back of the auditorium. There are ten speaker outlets on stage and fourteen microphone lines.

The **Studio Theatre** is the adaptable neutral box of so many dreamers – although many of those who once dreamed (and I am one of them) have found the reality less stimulating than the dream. However in juxtaposition to the decorative glories of the rest of the Victorian Arts Centre, this type of space may well have just the right astringency for the more informally experimental aspects of the Centre's programme.

Seating up to 420 in its various configurations of stage and seats, it is a good example of this kind of space. Wall to wall width is 21.95m (of which 17.5m is between balconies). There is a trapped area (1.75 x 1.25m modules with 3m clearance below) and a cat-walked grid at a clearance of 5.79m from the stage. There is a rostrum stock (12 at 2.4 x 1.2 x 0.6m) and tracked black serge masking or 24 metres of white filled cyc cloth.

The Galaxy controls a rig for which the basic inventory is:

- 10 x Harmony 22/40
- 10 x Silhouette 30
- 30 x Prelude 16/30
- 40 x Prelude 28/40
- 20 x Harmony fresnels
- 10 x Prelude fresnels
- 5 x Coda/4.



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'Gloria Swanson's Last Silent Movie' by Noel Tunk in the Studio foyer.