

rather than a fully qualified architect. The fingerboard provides a splendid covered walkway to the entrance. Foyers and the single tiered auditorium of 1000 comfortable seats sloping towards a wide stage are all contained within the belly of the instrument.

LEATHER PUPPETS

The **Karnataka Chitrakala Parishati** art centre has a splendid collection of leather puppets from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Some are articulated but many contain an entire narrative within the static figure groupings. The centre has a delightful performance space formed by natural rock outcrops under a spreading banyan tree.

KARNATAKA THEATRES

Mr K.C. Shivappa, director of Kannada (the language of Karnataka) and Culture escorts me around some of the Bangalore theatres. The **Ravindra Kalakshetra** is a two tier 1000 seater with cinematic sightlines to a wide stage with pit convertible to apron. Good foh lighting positions and a lighting control room that is something of a standard: four 12-way interlocking auto-transformer boards that are reaching the end of their lives. India has a rapidly growing electronics industry and it is likely that the thyristor and memory revolutions in control technology will be telescoped into taking place simultaneously. On the opposite side of the street a 400-500 new drama house, in the style of a 1970s British regional rep, is under construction for the Amateur Drama Association.

Nearby is the **Town Hall**. It looks 1912 but dates from 1932. The British in India tended to build in the style of their memories of home and such a twenty year gap is not at all unusual. This is typical of British town halls in that it has a big non-equipped stage and a poor acoustic. However it is a very pleasant auditorium full of atmosphere and charm, with elegant if uncomfortable seating. The **Youth Centre Theatre** is an intimate thrust playing space in a pleasantly timbered auditorium which would also be wonderful for chamber music.

BANGALORE UNIVERSITY

The Department of Drama is part of a small faculty of Dance, Drama and Music housed in a delightful old house which provides lecture rooms around an open courtyard. I have talked about light in many situations but this is the first time that I do so sitting cross-legged and garlanded. Nor am I normally rewarded with a personal vocal and instrumental concert.

AT HOME

Teddy White is an English coffee planter with an Indian wife, Malini, who shares my admiration for Emma Kirkby. They are much more in touch with the London theatre scene than I am, but they organise an at home for me to meet the amateurs who play English drama in Bangalore. (Teddy's heart is, I suspect, much more in acting than in coffee). The drinks flow, I talk with slides



Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Bangalore.



Ravindra Kalakshetra Theatre, Bangalore.



Variac dimmers, Madras.