

Cover:

The Brothel *Traviata* designed by Stefanos Lazaridis. When scenic effects are greeted by titters from the audience something has gone sadly wrong.

# CUE

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## Training Issues Come to a Head

The subject of training is under discussion again – and it is nice to see that for once the technical side of the arts and entertainment industry is leading the way. Thanks to the Arts and Entertainment Technical Training Initiative (AETTI) launched in October 1988, progress is now being made in preparing ourselves for National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), which will be introduced in 1990-91. NVQs will become the universally-recognised means of judging competence, experience and qualifications throughout British industry. The arts will be no exception.

But if the 'technology' side of our industry is currently the most active in setting up ways and means of evaluating skills, there is nevertheless little room for complacency. The need is widely felt in our industry for accepted criteria to be introduced which can define qualifications for jobs, levels of pay and of course, for entry into the industry. For example, how do we define good technical training? Or re-training? Without these points of reference, how can technicians expect their careers to progress logically – or fairly? How do employers know what skills they are hiring? For that matter, how do we propose to keep abreast of the changes in today's high-tech world, especially in the computerised and electronics sectors of our industry?

We shall return to these questions in more detail.

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