



Primarily an opera designer, Richard Hudson (2) was awarded the 1988 Laurence Olivier Award as Designer of the Year for his season at the Old Vic Theatre. Preferring to design both sets and costumes, Hudson says, "I like to design the set and then populate it," as he did in *Candide* (1) and the other shows of the Old Vic Season: *Andromache*, *One Way Pendulum*, *Too Clever by Half*, *Bussy D'Ambois* and *The Tempest*.

• *Avant tout décorateur de l'opéra, Richard Hudson (2) a gagné le prix Laurence Olivier 1988 comme Designer of the Year pour sa saison au Théâtre Old Vic. Préférant dessiner à la fois les décors et les costumes, Hudson a dit: "Je préfère dessiner le décor puis le 'peupler,' comme il l'a fait pour Candide (1) et pour les cinq autres pièces de la saison: Andromache, One Way Pendulum, Too Clever By Half, Bussy D'Ambois et The Tempest.*

▼ Richard Hudson (2), der in erster Linie Opernbühnenbilder entwirft, wurde 1988 für sein Schaffen am Old Vic Theatre mit dem Laurence Olivier-Preis als Bühnenbildner des Jahres ausgezeichnet. Hudson bevorzugt es, sowohl das Bühnenbild als auch die Kostüme zu entwerfen: "Ich entwerfe das Bühnenbild und bevölkere es dann." So tat er es in *Candide* (1) und den anderen Inszenierungen während seines Engagements am Old Vic Theatre: *Andromache*, *One Way Pendulum*, *Too Clever By Half*, *Bussy D'Ambois* und *The Tempest*.



SIMON ANNAND

ERIC THORBURN

Seasonal Honors

BY ELLEN LAMPERT

The plays were so different, each was a challenge in its own way," comments Richard Hudson, the 34-year-old Zimbabwe-born designer, who was honored with the 1988 Laurence Olivier Award for Designer of the Year. The award was bestowed for the ensemble of sets and costumes Hudson designed for last year's six-play season at Ed and David Mirvish's Old Vic Theatre in London.

"Although I'd mostly designed for the opera before, it was a great pleasure to do theatre," said Hudson, for whom the season at the Old Vic marked a transition in his career, "and it's great not to be pigeonholed for just opera." The season included *Andromache*, *One Way Pendulum*, *Too Clever by Half*, *Bussy D'Ambois*, *The Tempest* and *Candide*. All of the plays were directed by Jonathan Miller, except *Too Clever By Half*, which was directed by Richard Jones.

"There was a slight gasp when the curtain first went up," said Hudson in describing the audience reaction to his set for *Andromache*. "The floor was steeply raked, I think one in seven, with the walls at right angles to the rake. The walls actually appeared to fall forward, giving the idea that

the set would fall down." Designed to represent a room with no exit, from which *Andromache* cannot escape, the set was covered with dust and peeling paint, and accented by a broken staircase. Costumes for this production were of mixed periods, with 17th-century men and very early 20th-century women.

The raked stage was one of the through-lines in Hudson's season, and a different rake was used in each play except *Bussy D'Ambois*, a complicated play which called for a simple style. "Here I used the normal one in twelve rake of the stage," said Hudson, whose stark set with little architectural detail contrasted with the rich fabrics of the early 17th-century costumes.

The most exaggerated rake was used in *Too Clever By Half*, which Hudson cites as his favourite play of the season. "Here the ratio was one in six," he said, "and the set stretched back almost 21 meters." The steepness of the rake allowed everyone to see all the way to the back of this deep set, which was designed in the manner of German expressionist painting and Russian film of the 1920s. "The play is very funny, so I was able to use outlandish colours and grotesque wigs and

A SEASON AT THE OLD VIC WINS DESIGNER RICHARD HUDSON THE 1988 OLIVIER AWARD