

National Theatre in its vast right wing, but because of recent fire damage, the National has been relocated to a theatre outside of central Warsaw.

After the Wielki, the stages, shops, and technical facilities of most of the other theatres in Warsaw seem limited. *This* is the Warsaw wonder — that stunning stage-images are regularly produced with almost minimal means, especially with the demands of a rotating repertory.

The 900-seat Teatr Polski, built in 1913 in a mixture of Art Nouveau and Neo-Classical styles, presents Polish dramas and comedies. The home of Poland's first revolving stage, the theatre recently replaced its light-control machinery with a lighting control system manufactured by one of Poland's premiere designers of theatrical machinery, the Factory of Theatre Apparatus (Zaklad Urzadzen Teatralnych).

In business for thirty years, the Warsaw-based Factory of Theatre Apparatus manufactures a wide variety of stage technology — revolving stages, hydraulic lifts, light bridges, mixer consoles, and lighting controls. They supply the majority of Polish theatres, including the Teatr Dramatyczny in Warsaw, the Teatr Wyrzecz in Gdansk, and the Opera-House in Wroclaw. Half of their business is to other Eastern European institutions — the Operetta House in Sofia, Bulgaria; The National Theatre in Bucharest; the Friedrichstadtpalast in East Berlin; the National Theatre in Budapest; the Estonia Opera-House in Leningrad; and the Mayakovski Theatre in Moscow.

Among the other Warsaw theatres worth noting is the Opera Kameralna — the Chamber Opera. Housed in a quaint 18th-century Calvinist church, its stage is tiny, with no flies, but an orchestra pit

with as many as 48 chairs. The attractive auditorium seats only 159.

Many of Warsaw's dramatic theatres regularly present American, British and Western European plays in translations. They include the Atheneum, the Studio, and the Public. In the Atheneum's repertoire are such works as *Jacques Brel*, Erdman's *Suicide*, and Mrozek's *Police*; the Studio's offerings range from *Hamlet* to a lively musicalised production of *Woody Allen*, known in the West as *Play It Again, Sam*; and the Public's repertoire includes the work of Babel, Enquist and even Marsha Norman.

Also notable are the Maly, the Nowy, the Popular, the Rampa, the Contemporary, the State Jewish Theatre, and puppet theatres — the Baj and the Lalka. In spaces that range from black-box studios to grand arenas, the theatres in Warsaw provide a wide range of entertainment.

From 100-seat studios to 2,000-seat palaces, Warsaw theatres present everything from Polish classics to Western musicals. (1, *Sarcophagus*, and 2, *Death in the Garden*, at the Teatr Popularny; 3, *Scenes of the Passion* at the Teatr Nowy; 4, *A Threepenny Opera* at the Teatr Studio)

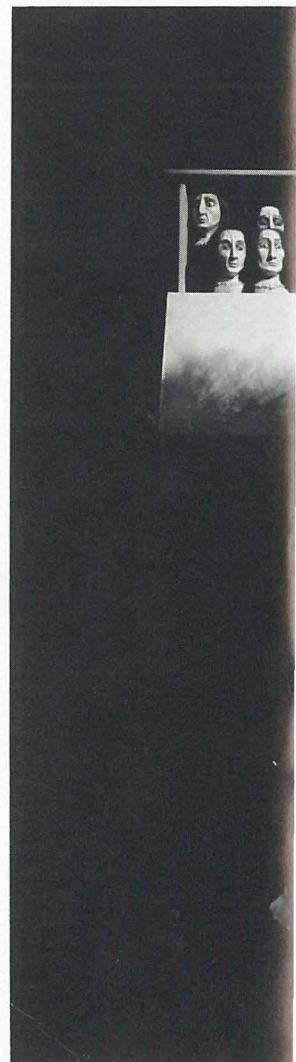
*Des petits ateliers de 100 places aux grands auditoriums de 2.000 places, les théâtres de Varsovie proposent au public une grande variété de spectacles, des classiques polonais aux comédies musicales occidentales. (1, Sarcophagus, et 2, Death in the Garden, au théâtre Popularny; 3, Scenes of the Passion, au théâtre Nowy; 4, Threepenny Opera, au théâtre du Studio)*

Die Warschauer Theatre umfassen sowohl Studiobühnen mit 100 Sitzen, als auch grosse Häuser mit zweitausend Sitzen, in denen sie einen Spielplan anbieten, der von den polnischen Klassikern bis zum Musical reicht. (1, *Sarcophagus* und 2, *Death in the Garden* im Teatr Popularny; 3, *Scenes of the Passion* im Teatr Nowy; 4, *Threepenny Opera* im Teatr Studio)



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ZYGMUNT RYTKA



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