

CARMEN A LACROIX

Perhaps the 150th anniversary of Bizet prompted the numerous productions of *Carmen* as “super-opera” during the summer of 1989. Following productions at Earls Court, designed by Stefanos Lazaridis, and at Bercy, designed by Pier Luigi Pizzi, a third larger-than-life production took place in the 1st-century BC Roman arena in Nîmes, France. Two thousand-year-old stone walls set the stage for a *Carmen* with sets and costumes designed by French style-setter Christian Lacroix, who created over 300 costumes including flamingo-pink toreador capes and flamboyant red flamenco dresses, with layers of lace appliquéd for a three-dimensional look. For Lacroix, designing for this large-scale production meant more attention to the shape of the silhouette rather than to the detail he puts into his *haute-couture* collections. Seamstresses Patricia Morin and Anne Carbière supervised the construction of the costumes in the Nîmes workshops of the Cacherel clothing company, whose owner, Jean Bousquet, is also the mayor of this Provençal French town. After just three performances in the Nîmes arena, Lacroix’s costumes are in storage, and their fate is as yet undetermined. But *Carmen* has been a tradition in Nîmes since 1901 when the productions were complete with a staged bullfight, so 1990 might just see Lacroix back in the arena.



■ In the next issue:

A visit with British lighting designer Nick Chelton; news from Sweden’s Avab lighting; the 1990s — a preview of the decade ahead; Hamburg prepares for *The Phantom of the Opera*.

● Dans le prochain numéro:

Une visite chez Nick Chelton, éclairagiste britannique; la luminescence nordique d’Avab; comment la ville de Hambourg se prépare-t-elle à la visite du *Phantom of the Opera*; les années 90 — la prochaine décennie.

▼ In der nächsten Ausgabe:

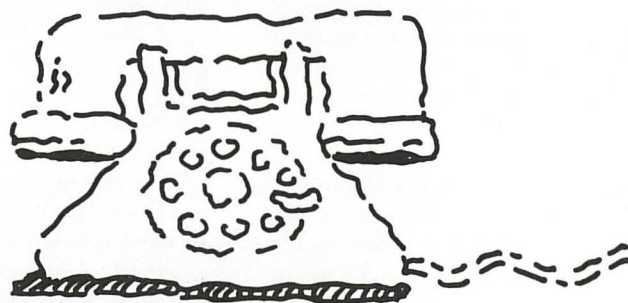
Ein Besuch beim britischen Lichtdesigner Nick Chelton; Neuigkeiten von Schwedens Avab Beleuchtung; die 90er Jahre — eine Vorschau auf das kommende Jahrzehnt; Hamburg bereitet sich auf *Phantom of the Opera* vor.

AD INDEX

ADB Lighting Systems.....	19
Altman Stage Lighting...CV2	
Avab.....	45
Avolites.....CV3	
Butterworth Scientific Ltd.46	
Celco Ltd.....41	
Gerriets.....47	
The Great American Market.....5	
JCN.....2	
Lee Filters.....23	
LDI90.....42	
Morpheus Lights, Inc	1, 18, 27
Pan Command Systems Inc.....1, 18, 27	
P & G Draperies Ltd.....2	
Strand Lighting.....30	
Theatre Projects.....CV4	
Universal Manufacturing Co.....4	
White Light.....4	

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