

## GLASGOW HOSTS A YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION AS CULTURAL CAPITAL OF EUROPE

# Glasgow 1990

BY ANDREW P. SHEARER

**A**t the stroke of midnight on 31 December 1989, the eyes of the world turned to Glasgow. With a Hogmanay celebration complete with fireworks and a laser light spectacular organised by six of Europe's leading fireworks companies, Glasgow ushered in a year-long celebration as Cultural Capital of Europe 1990 — an honor that puts it in the prestigious company of past honorees Athens, Florence, Amsterdam, Berlin, and Paris.

In hosting almost 2,000 cultural and entertainment events the city will be putting its best foot forward for a year-long arts festival. The scope of events is staggering — from the Scottish debut of Luciano Pavarotti, to the first performance in Britain of the Bolshoi Opera, to *The Words and the Stones*, an exhibition highlighting Glasgow's history to be held in massive Victorian arches underneath the city's railway station. The costs are just as impressive — the price tag for Glasgow 1990 is reportedly £40 million (US \$68 million).

*Cue International* travels to the newly rejuvenated city of Glasgow for a behind-the-scenes look at some of the celebration's



THE SCOTTISH OPERA PRODUCTION OF THE TROJANS/PHOTO: CATHERINE ASHMORE

highlights: the October 1990 opening of the £27 million (US \$46 million), 2,500-seat Glasgow International Concert Hall; a look at the stages of the Scottish Opera and the Scottish Ballet; plus a conversation with Philip Prowse, designer and co-director for Glasgow's acclaimed repertory company, the Citizens' Theatre.

After years saddled with a reputation as being dark and industrial, Glasgow has recently emerged as a newer, handsomer city. It is home to the Scottish Opera, the Scottish Ballet, the Scottish National Opera, and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. It is also the home of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and the Glasgow School of Art and boasts over 20 museums and

galleries. It's selection as Cultural Capital of Europe 1990 is the symbol of a new, dynamic city. Planners are hoping that 1990 will see the beginning of Glasgow as an international centre for the arts — attracting the most talented performers, directors, and designers.

So, as you'll see in the succeeding pages, there's a lot "Glasgowing" on in 1990!

