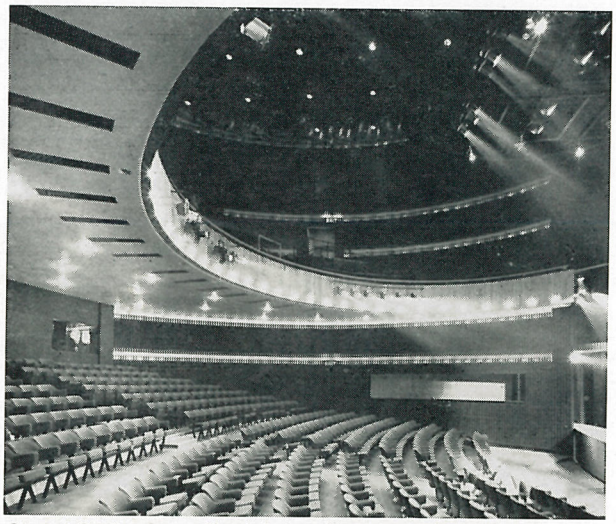
STAGE LIGHTING

Lighting equipment for the stage mainly hangs overhead and takes three main forms: (*a*) Floodlights; (*b*) Soft-edge Fresnel spotlights; (*c*) Hard-edge Profile spotlights.

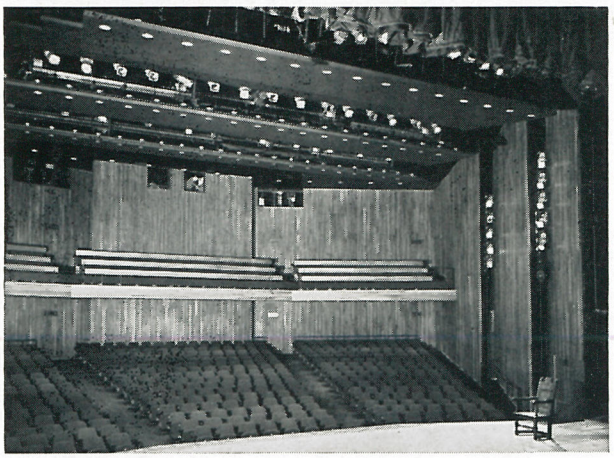
Today floodlights are required only to give an even wide-angle beam free of striation and hot spot. For the smaller stage this light is better provided by a number of individual floodlights grouped several to a circuit. These floods would be 100–200 watt, or the 300–500 watt size depending on the scale of the stage. Sometimes for backcloth or cyclorama flooding and where general flooding is required from overhead on the larger stages, magazine equipment whose compartments are in effect a number of floods joined together, are used. These are wired to alternate in 2, 3 or 4 circuits. Similar compartment equipment is used as groundrow at the bottom of the cyclorama or as footlight at the front edge of the stage. The footlight is an auxiliary source of light and to avoid much expenditure on this item when working to a very restricted budget a single circuit Junior type can be installed to ensure that some correction to overhead lighting is available.



Strand Spots are neatly styled so that concealment is often unnecessary. Playhouse Theatre Nottingham.

The most important lighting on the stage requires to be localised to emphasise certain areas, avoid spill on cyclorama or backings and provide dominant (motivating) lighting as sunlight, moonlight, etc.

Strand Concert and Stage Lighting. Royal Festival Hall



Strand FOH lighting concealed in ceiling and side wall slots. New Abbey Theatre Dublin.

The best general purpose unit for this is the Fresnel spotlight, since it gives a wide adjustable beam ranging from 15° to 55°. These will hang on bars behind the proscenium and elsewhere. They are also used vertically on 'boomerangs' or hang as 'ladders' in the wings to provide high-lighting from the side.

The beam is soft-edged and ill-defined and in consequence frosts are not required. Where the scatter of light is objectionable, as for example when the spotlight is close to a night sky cyclorama, then a barn-door shutter may be fitted to intercept the light. There are four independent doors and the whole barndoor unit is made to rotate. Some beam shaping can be carried out in this way if desired, but a better lantern for the purpose is the Profile Spot.

The Profile Spot incorporates a gate aperture which is focused by a lens. A large solid angle of light is collected by a reflector and this is passed through the adjustable gate with four separate shutters to vary the shape which is then projected by the lens. Strand Profile Spots can be supplied with lenses of differing focal lengths to ensure that as far as possible a lantern operates with its gate at a wide aperture. This provision ensures that as little light as possible is wasted by being obstructed at the gate.

An example would be a Pattern 23 which with its gate half closed would cover 6 ft. at 30 ft. throw. Obviously it may be better to use a narrow beam Pattern 23N with its gate wide open and get twice the light from the same lamp.

Strand Spotlights for the open stage. Questors Theatre Ealing.