

From Berlin To Broadway - In Denmark by Rob Halliday

From Berlin To Broadway was the name of the show - but this revue of the music of Kurt Weill actually took place in Denmark rather than Germany or America!

Produced by Det Nordjyske Operakompagni, *From Berlin To Broadway* was directed by the company's Artistic Director, Nigel Warrington, designed by Isla Shaw, with lighting by Bruno Poet.

Featuring four performers, the show incorporates the two main periods of the composer's life, with the first half featuring his work in Germany with Bertolt Brecht and the second his compositions following his move to America. A simple yet flexible set design allows enough variation to reflect the differing moods of the two periods, with video projection providing historical images in the background. Lighting follows this plan: cool and austere in the first half, then with light bulbs around the set revealed and more dramatic col-



Photo courtesy Carl Eric Hesseldal

our and chases in the second. A relatively compact rig gained added versatility from an upstage line of four Martin Mac300 washlights, which worked hard to provide backlight specials and a range of colour washes.

Control for the rig was from a Strand 520i console, supplied to the production by Strand's Danish Distributor, Teadan. This, along with the video material replayed from PowerPoint, was operated by Nordjyske Operakompagni's technician, Thomas Arnold. During plotting Bruno Poet, an experienced 500-series user, operated the console himself.

To allow Arnold to trigger cues independently, Poet configured his Macintosh iBook laptop as a remote console - Arnold then used the Mac's 'g' key to run cues while



A view from the Lighting Desk

Poet continued to programme undisturbed. Full details of configuring Macs in this way can be found in the new information booklet, *The Apple Macintosh in a Strand World*, which can be downloaded from the Strand website.

Berlin To Broadway opened at the Jomfru Ane Teatret in Aalborg, playing a season there before transferring to Den Anden Opera in Copenhagen.



Photo courtesy Carl Eric Hesseldal