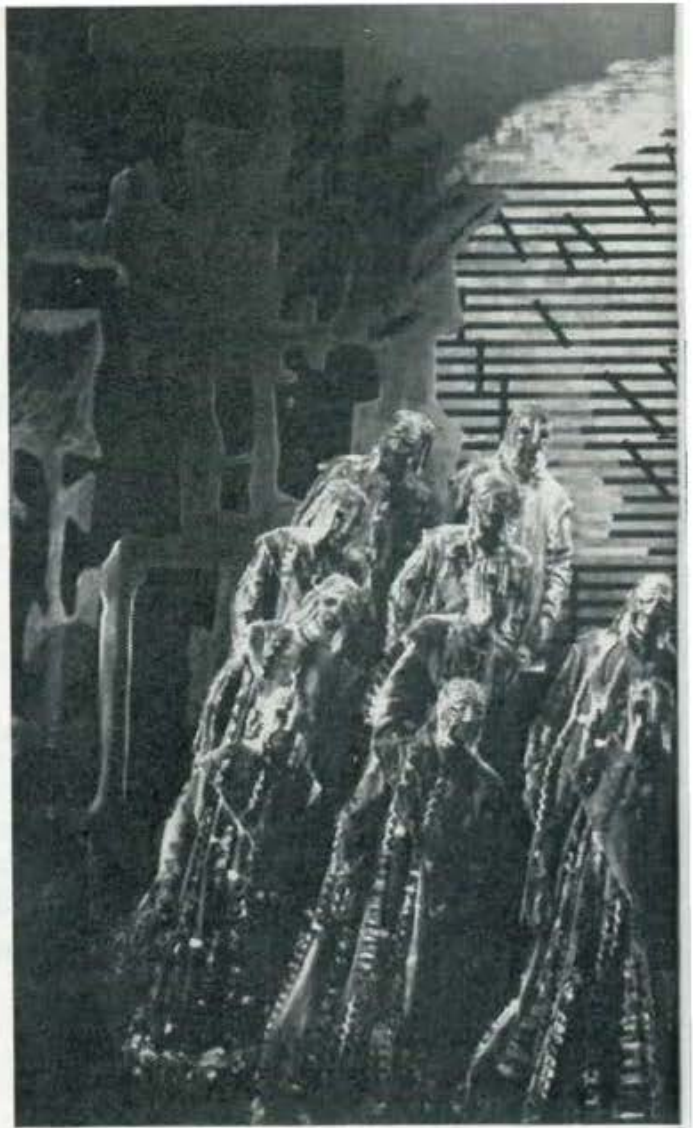


**OEDIPUS**  
**AT**  
**SADLERS WELLS**

*The first London stage production of Stravinsky's "Oedipus Rex" by the Sadlers Wells Opera. (Photo courtesy Sadlers Wells Theatre.)*



The production by Michael St. Denis of Stravinsky's opera *Oedipus* at Sadlers Wells has created a big sensation. Certainly as far as the present writer is concerned the opera is an experience not likely to be forgotten. As the photograph shows, the setting is most striking, and in fact the masked figures ranged in tiers on the left never leave their positions. What the photograph cannot show is the extraordinary effective colouring—colouring achieved largely by lighting.

This brings us to the real aim of this article, which is to point out that the lighting of this production was in its own way quite a sensation and revolution. The production represents the first time pole-operated lanterns have been used on the stage and one cannot help thinking that the mixture of *Oedipus*, a pole and new lighting must have some symbolism somewhere. The No. 1 bar at Sadlers Wells has been re-equipped with 12 Patt. 243, 1 kW 10-in. diameter Fresnel Spots. These spots are fitted with the Polestar attachment which was designed specifically for television, and the Strand 2 kW Patt. 243, with Polestar attachment has been specified by the B.B.C. for their new studios in the Television Centre, White City, London. The attachment was designed for television where rigging is a constant problem. Every production is different from its predecessor