



## Meanwhile, over at Liverpool . . .

*Geoffrey Haley*

The last issue of *TABS*, described—amongst others—the new theatre at Birmingham and all very splendid it looked too. However, I thought that readers might be interested in what can be done with a conventional theatre built in 1866. The theatre in question is the Liverpool Playhouse which has just celebrated its Diamond Jubilee, thus making it the oldest repertory theatre in this country, beating Birmingham by a slim two years.

A long list of famous names made their debut at this theatre.

So much for the potted history! We jump now to the years 1966–68, when the sum of £275,000 was spent on structural improvements both front-of-house and back stage. The front-of-house improve-

ments mainly consisted of the construction of an entire new foyer. Above this, and at circle-entrance level, there is a restaurant serving a full dinner, and on the half landing for those who are not quite so hungry, an extra coffee lounge, the one in the basement being retained. At the top is the entrance to the upper circle and, for those members of the public who are neither hungry nor wanting coffee, there is a bar! Also accommodated at this level is a suite of administrative offices.

Backstage the improvements include, adequate showers, a Green Room, where light meals are available and a very handy lift. The stage area is quite generous when one considers that the theatre was built as a