

Concert - Performance Hall as proposed in 1967

Carolina Theatre Rejected:

Date For New Performance Facilities Remains A Mystery

Drama Workshop Production: MEDEA

On the 20th and 21st of this month, the Drama Department will present as a Workshop Production, the Greek tragedy, *Medea*. The play will be directed by Robert Murray and given in the Drama Theatre. The script is an adaptation of Euripides' original by Robinson Jeffers.

Euripides (480-406 B.C.) has been called the first modern because he developed the human interest element in theatre. He is the last, subtlest, and most controversial of the tragedians of his time. Of his ninety-two plays, seventeen of them are tragedies. *Medea* (431 B.C.) still ranks among the most poignant portrayals of women in dramatic literature.

Debbie Gordon, a sophomore drama student, has been cast in the lead role of *Medea*. Other members of the cast are as follows:

The Nurse...Celia Watson
the Tutor...Chris Lambert
Women of Corinth...Marilyn McIntyre, Susan Thompson and Joan Stern

Creon...Fred Serino
Jason...Danny Watkins
Aegeus...David Marshall
Jason's slave...Monte McIntyre.

Mr. Murray commented on the production: "Our approach to this strange and violent play is based on pre-historic saga and myth. What we have basically is a melodrama of witchcraft (*Medea* is the bloodsister to the sorceress Circe), betrayal, abominable cruelty and blind murder."

When asked why the Drama Department chose a Greek tragedy as their Workshop Production, Mr. Murray remarked: "It is the director's opinion that, in general, the classicists in great dramatic literature have too long been avoided by the American actor....There is perhaps a subconscious thought that the work of the masters belongs to European Theatre, that it is their legacy; this, of course, is sheer nonsense. We, in this country, have safely niched the plays of Sophocles, Euripides, Marlowe, Jonson, Goethe, etc., in an antiseptic academic tomb to be read, dutifully, by sleepy-eyed inmates of some literature class or other."

Mr. Murray added that "we are dealing with playwrights who wrote plays to be played by actors, everywhere, forever."

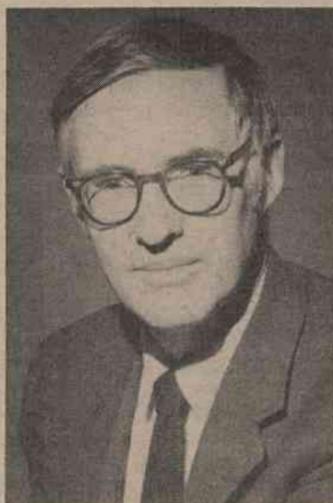


Carolina Theatre, Downtown Winston-Salem, 1971

Administrative Offices Undergo Changes

Many changes have been executed in the Administrative Department effective with the beginning of the fall term. On September 1, Martin Sokoloff, the Administrative Director of the School, was appointed by President Ward to assist him in the office of the President. At that time, Ward announced that he was "adding to his (Sokoloff's) present duties the day-to-day administration of all matters that fall within the purview of the presidency." Sokoloff's appointment was a result of other changes in the restructure of the administration.

With the retirement of Sam Dorsett and James Rush during the summer, William Parrish, a graduate of the School and recently a Graduate Assistant in the Department of Design and Production, has begun an 18-month trainee period as the Purchasing Officer. Phillip Chapman is the new Chief Ac-



Martin Sokoloff

countant and Internal Auditor, replacing Lewis Hawley who is the new Director of Personnel.

Other changes have been effected in the office of registrations. Dirk Dawson has

Though at present NCSA has impressive new dormitories and a student lounge of which it can be proud, the realization of a performance hall for its many productions seems remote. The Carolina Theatre, rumored as an immediate solution to the college's needs, will probably never become the stage from which present NCSA actors, dancers, and musicians face their early critics. The Board of Trustees voted in October against the purchase of the building. Unless other possibilities similar to the Carolina plan appear, an adequate concert hall and performance center may be as distant as 1975.

The idea of purchasing the Carolina Theatre, located in the center of Winston-Salem's business district, began several months ago when President Ward discovered an article in the *Saturday Review* about certain colleges that had purchased downtown property for school use.

In the article, there were examples of downtown warehouses and hotels that had been converted into dormitories, libraries, and classroom facilities. Mr. Ward, remembering that the Robert E. Lee Hotel was for sale and that there was a redevelopment plan for downtown Winston-Salem, decided to look into the possibility of purchasing downtown property for The School of the Arts.

The next day in his office, President Ward made a few phone calls and discovered that the Carolina Theatre was for sale. At this point President Ward appointed Sam Stone to research the possibility of purchasing this property. The idea turned out to be a good one, and the administration became very enthusiastic about it. The best thing about the whole plan was that it would cost considerably less than building a theatre on campus. After consulting the school's architectural firm, they found that the structure could be renovated to make two theatres. After making further inquiries, they found that they could lease the Woolworth building next door to accommodate the Tech. Department. The administration's immediate plan was to move the whole Drama Department into the Carolina Hotel which sits directly on top of the Carolina Theatre. There were disadvantages, too. The hotel-theatre complex was an old building and there were many unknown facts about construction.

been named to succeed Valerie Parker as Director of Admissions. Miss Parker, in turn, has been appointed to a new position, Central Records Officer. Mrs. Irene Nolte will be the recorder in high school grading. The purpose of this rearrangement is to centralize the office of registrations, since, in the past, the work of the Registrar had been spread over these many areas.

All of the changes are part of a self-study evaluation which officially starts next September and will run for eighteen months. This evaluation is necessary for the School to continue to receive its accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Also, moving the drama and Tech. departments downtown would split the campus. However, some members of the administration argued that there would be advantages in this split.

The proposed redevelopment of the block on which the Carolina stands was an influential factor. Salem Ventures had an option to buy the Robert E. Lee Hotel which stands on the north side of the block. Their intention was to tear down the present structure and erect a modern hotel. It was to be called The Hyatt House. There were also plans to construct a parking deck in the same block. The idea of operating a theatre next door to a modern hotel and some three hundred yards away from the new Winston-Salem Convention Center was appealing.

Next, during Governor Scott's visit to The School of the Arts campus in mid-October, he discussed the idea with President Ward and they both visited the Carolina Theatre to look over its facilities. Governor Scott supported the plan.

After the plan was researched, it was brought before the board of trustees to be voted on. They voted against it. The negative vote was brought about for four basic reasons: (1) Salem Ventures had dropped their option to purchase the Robert E. Lee Hotel the day before the vote was put to The School of the Arts Board of Trustees. The president of Salem Ventures, Mr. M.C. Benton (a former mayor of Winston-Salem) said that this did not mean that Salem Ventures would definitely not buy the property. Yet this action cast a dark shadow on the future of the Hyatt House Hotel. The board of trustees felt that the doubtful future of the Hyatt House would decrease the value of the property. (2) Several members of the board wanted a new Theatre. (3) Most of the board members wanted a unified campus. (4) There was a depressing economic factor. The School of the Arts Foundation felt there were insufficient funds to purchase the Carolina Theatre.

At present The School of the Arts may have to settle for a new theatre, but since the legislature will not vote on such additions before 1973, the theatre, proposed as early as 1967, may not be a reality in the next five years; that is, unless a new plan appears.