

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
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EXHIBITION OF STAGE ARCHITECTURE AND LIGHTING

BY ARCH LAUTERER OPENS AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Two decades of leadership and originality in the art of stage architecture and lighting will be summarized in an exhibition of the work of Arch Lauterer which will open Wednesday, August 28, at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, and will close November 3. The exhibition, which will be shown in the Museum's Auditorium Gallery, will consist of charts for lighting, drawings and designs for architectural sets and scenery.

In addition to designing stage sets and lighting effects, Mr. Lauterer has made architectural designs for a permanent stage at Western Reserve University and a theatre for the Koch Memorial at the University of North Carolina. He has also designed several projects for dance theatres. He has been Art Director of the Cleveland Playhouse, Production Director of the Bennington Festivals, and has been director of drama and theatre arts at several colleges. He is now Professor of Drama and Theatre at Mills College, Oakland, California. He has designed dance productions for a number of the leading exponents of modern dance, among them Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, Merce Cunningham and Hanya Holm.

Mr. Lauterer has designed the productions for more than 150 plays. Of these, designs for Electra, Prometheus Bound and Six Characters in Search of an Author and others will be shown in the exhibition as well as his dance production designs for Deaths and Entrances and Punch and the Judy, with choreography by Martha Graham, and Four Walls, with choreography by Merce Cunningham.

The exhibition has been directed by George Amberg, Curator of the Museum's Dance and Theatre Department. Mr. Amberg comments as follows on Lauterer's work:

"Arch Lauterer, in dealing with the complex problems of scenic decor, puts the emphasis on architecture and lighting. As opposed to a painting or drawing, which is essentially two-dimensional and static, the design for a setting is primarily concerned with the development of dramatic action in space and time. Consistent with this principle the artist builds his settings with simple

architectural elements and three-dimensional objects. These functional units correspond to the basic structure of the drama and even as the play develops during the process of presentation, so the decor assumes visual significance through the movement of the actors and the medium of lighting.

"Lighting fulfills the double purpose of creating mood and atmosphere and accentuating relations in space. According to this dynamic principle the lighting is conceived as a continuous accompaniment of the unfolding action, keeping the physical structure of setting and props in constant pace with the situations of the play and the actions of the players. Thus each fluctuation of the drama should be paralleled visually by a light set-up. In order to achieve this Arch Lauterer analyzes the play according to a Beat-Structure, which means that he separates each act into shorter actions or moments of conflicts which he calls beats. This Beat-Structure, graphing as it does each change of mood, pace and movement, simplifies complete co-ordination of action, direction and technical changes."