

The Royal Patron had arrived - in an Edinburgh that was displaying a proud landmark in cultural achievement. The great International Festival of Music and Drama was celebrating its tenth anniversary. The brave venture that had fostered and encouraged international art in a war-torn Europe has been crowned with success. And once again, the advance notices promised first-class fare to match the occasion.

For days past - the equipment to transform a bare stage into living theatre had been arriving in the City. In concert Hall and theatre - rehearsals were in full swing. Here, co-director Edward Burnham sets the stage for the production of "Under Milk Wood" at the Lyceum. While his associate, Douglas Cleverdon discusses lighting arrangements with the Chief Engineer. All must be ready for that first night - and constant tests are made - for this play is expected to be one of the highlights of the Festival.

The play, (originally written by Dylan Thomas for radio) has a fine cast - including film ^{actor} ~~star~~ Donald Houston.

Meanwhile, from all parts of Europe, (besides Canada and the United States) artistes arrive in the ^{City} ~~City~~. An exciting moment for boy singers, David Barnes and Leonard Mitchard - who are making their first stage appearance in "Under Milk Wood".

While the artistes hit the headlines - another hard-working company ^{is} ~~are~~ busy behind the scenes - a rush against time to prepare the costumes for opening night.

Slowly, the great Festival tunes up to concert pitch - that means hours of rehearsals for the 2,000 artistes in the official programme alone.

A peep into the various dressing rooms reveals the same busy scenes - as performers prepare for the final dress rehearsal.

Adding local colour to the festival, "Pleasure of Scotland" has Mr Jameson Clark, the narrator, and Jackie Johnstone - a highland dancer, among the cast.

Continental visitors Colette Lorand and Anny Schlemm - two of the talented company of the Hamburg State Opera.

Edinburgh Festival (Continued)

2362

Well-known to ~~Scottish~~ ^{Scotland} enthusiasts, this famous Opera Company is making a return visit to the Festival. And with 250,000 visitors ~~also~~ expected in the Scottish Capital, some folk decided to make an early start for that first night!

Famous as a gaelic singer, Mary O'Hara stars in the "Pleasure of Scotland" at the Assembly Hall.

Here, rehearsals are in full swing. Described as an entertainment of dancing, singing and piping, this ~~Scottish contribution~~ ^{programme} will, no doubt, prove a tuneful picture of ~~the Highlands~~ ^{Scotland} for overseas visitors.

Among the presentations by the Hamburg State Opera is the "Magic Flute" - a tribute to ~~the composer~~ Mozart, in his bi-centenary year.

So, as the last threads are gathered in this great tapestry of art - a procession makes its way to St. Giles Cathedral for the Festival

Inaugural Service

The Lord Provost, Sir John Banks, walks in company with civic and religious leaders from all parts of Scotland.

And for the first time, the Queen, (as Patron of the Festival) - attends the service, accompanied by the Duke and Princess Margaret.

At the Cathedral, Her Majesty is received by Dr. Warr, Dean of the Chapel Royal and of the Order of the Thistle.

So - at the end of a successful tour of the Western Isles - the Queen is welcomed to the Capital - to share a ~~great~~ ^{great} festival with her Scottish people.

But no Edinburgh occasion would be complete without the military spectacle on the forecourt of the Castle. There, the Royal Marines staggered the onlookers with a drill display ^{- as} in the year 1805...

Now, of course, they live up to the ~~name~~ ^{title} "King's Squad" granted them by ~~the late King~~ ^{King George V.}

Colourful visitors to the ~~festival~~ ^{City} are the band of the Federation of Malaya Police.

And though music from many lands will be heard throughout the festival - the Massed Pipe Bands tell of an ancient culture that has illuminated ~~the~~ ^{Scotland's} proud story of Scotland...