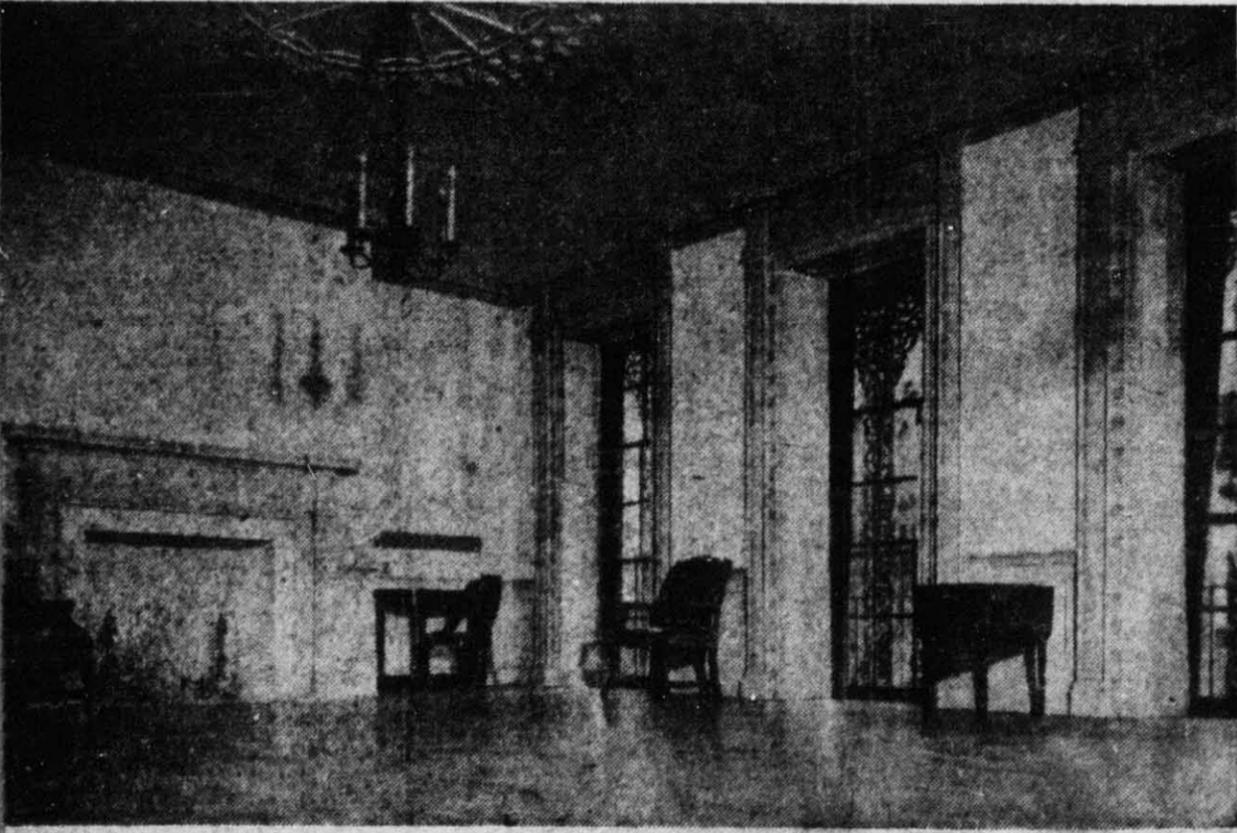


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THE FOYER: NOTE GLIMPSE OF BALCONY OUTSIDE.

The Carolina Art Association Will Take Over the Operation Of America's First Playhouse

State - 11-28-37 *State - 11-28-1937*
Organization Will Extend Its Activities to Field of Drama and Music, Assisting
Other Groups in Presenting Their Contributions to the Cultural Life of City.
Restaurant Must Meet Traditions of Old Planters Hotel Cuisine.

BY ROWENA WILSON TOBIAS.

Charleston, Nov. 27.—The Carolina Art association, which owns and manages the Gibbes Memorial Art gallery, will operate Charleston's Dock Street theater for an experimental period of two years, beginning December 1.

At first glance it may seem strange for an art association to assume the management of a theater and its surrounding buildings. But drama and music are as much in the field of the arts as painting, sculpture and the other arts usually associated with such an organization.

In other parts of the country this broad interpretation of the arts has already been adopted. The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Centre brings under one roof the plastic arts, music and drama. Their building houses an art school, a theater seating 400, a music room, exhibition galleries and library.

The Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, Conn., sponsors lectures, concerts, moving pictures, operas, ballets, and radio broadcasts, as well as art classes and exhibitions. The Atheneum also inaugurated the Hartford festival.

The operation of the Dock Street theater places the Carolina Art association, which was founded in 1858, in the field of the arts in the broadest sense. Mr. Whitelaw, director of the Carolina Art association, pointed out that the theater and museum were once very closely related, as in the days when Barnum shows were combination exhibitions and stage entertainment.

The Carolina Art association will not necessarily become producers, but will help other organizations to produce their offerings toward the cultural life of the city. Professional productions, artistic in nature and not

available in the city through commercial agencies, have already been scheduled for presentation in the Dock Street theater.

On dates which are not engaged for other productions, the Carolina Art association will present foreign and artistic films for the public, and educational films for the students in the city. Several ballets and stage productions, individual musicians and concerts are being considered for presentation this season.

The Dock Street theater will be used by such local organizations as the Footlight Players, the Musical Art club, the Poetry Society of South Carolina, the Society for the Preservation of Spirituals, and by the dramatic societies of the College of Charleston, Ashley Hall and the Junior league.

The Carolina Art association is undertaking the management of the theater with the aim of making it a center for all the lively arts in the South, a center constantly in use, by local and outside organizations which will be a vital part of the community life and in no sense of the word a "museum piece."

Miss Charlotte R. Dillingham has been appointed manager of the theater and Philip Minges has been appointed building superintendent.

The Dock Street theater building contains eight apartments on the third floor, ranging from a single room and bath to two rooms, kitchen and bath. The building also contains a handsome restaurant, with pantries, bar, kitchen, and patio dining cloister. The Carolina Art association has set December 15 as the date of receiving bids for this restaurant, after the managing committee decided unanimously that this space would not be

leased for any other purpose than as a restaurant. Backed by the traditions of the old Planters' hotel cuisine, this restaurant should once again become the favorite rendezvous of the low country.

Although the Dock Street theater will be operated solely as a theater, the Carolina Art association is aware that it has been re-established as one of the landmarks of Charleston, and that there will be many persons desiring to see it as such. The managing committee has decided that the public will be admitted free to the theater building between December 1 and December 15. After that time an admission will be charged, to take care of the necessary upkeep, janitor service, guide service and other expenses that such a practice entails. Members of the Carolina Art association will not be charged admission when they visit the building.

Sustaining contributions for the experimental two-year period have already been pledged to the Carolina Art association of the Dock Street theater, and all income from rentals, gifts and other sources will be used for this purpose.

The committee which raised the money for this initial period of operating the Dock Street theater includes Thomas A. Stone, E. Gerry Chadwick, John P. Frost, DuBose Heyward, John Mead Howells, Mrs. Victor Morawetz, Miss Josephine Pinekney, Mrs. Nicholas G. Roosevelt and Dr. Francis B. Stewart.

With the aim of keeping the Dock Street theater a center of all the lively arts, this committee will conduct a campaign for further funds to continue the operation of the theatre on a permanent basis after the expiration of the two-year period.

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