

# GRIGGS & SON WESTMINSTER

## Builders of THE BRIXTON ASTORIA

*London's Greatest Picture Theatre*

Architect: E. A. STONE, Esq.

## THE WILLIAM BOOTH MEMORIAL BUILDINGS

*(South London's Greatest Contract)*

Architects: SIR GILES GILBERT SCOTT, R.A.  
MESSRS. GORDON & VINER.

PICCADILLY THEATRE Architect: E. A. STONE, Esq.

CHARING CROSS ASTORIA Architect: E. A. STONE, Esq.

OLD VIC THEATRE  
*(New Dressing Room Block, &c.)*  
Architects: FRANK MATCHAM & CO.

SOUTH LONDON PALACE (Reconditioning)  
Architect: CECIL MASEY, Esq.

STAMFORD HILL CINEMA  
Architect: GEORGE COLES, Esq.

AND

## *In Course of Construction*

WHITEHALL THEATRE Architect: E. A. STONE, Esq.

GREEK STREET THEATRE  
Architect: E. A. STONE, Esq.

STREATHAM PICTURE THEATRE  
Architect: E. A. STONE, Esq.

FINSBURY PARK PICTURE THEATRE  
Architect: E. A. STONE, Esq.  
&c., &c.

# GRIGGS & SON WESTMINSTER

have reared the fabric of modern London's

## Entertainment World

# THE BRIXTON ASTORIA

SOUTH LONDON'S GREAT SUPER CINEMA

LONDON'S newest cinema—the Brixton Astoria—is remarkable, not merely because it is new, but on account of the many unique features embodied in its construction.

Its cost is stated to be in the neighbourhood of £250,000, and its seating capacity 4,000. This latter figure is actually considerably less than its maximum accommodation, but the management have carefully avoided any tendency towards overcrowding, and every patron is assured of a comfortable seat and ample leg room.

The building is of pleasing external appearance, and the entrance hall, which first catches the eye of the visitor, is lined with shops—a noteworthy feature in itself.

The decoration of the auditorium, which is based on a scenic landscape design, is at once both novel and pleasing, and imparts a restful and congenial atmosphere. The main feature of the interior is the dome, which has the largest plain plaster surface in Europe. This

ordinated and dovetailed the work of the many specialists necessary to the erection and completion of a modern theatre, including those concerned with such matters as heating, ventilation, decoration, stage equipment, &c.

The erection of the building has been entirely free from serious accident, and to-day is complete in every detail.

### AIR CONDITIONING.

During recent years much greater attention has been paid to the effects of sunlight and atmospheric conditions on human well-being and comfort. The immense benefits of sunlight are now fully realised, and public attention is also being turned to the great importance, from the health point of view, of the purity and condition of the atmosphere we breathe.

Every minute of human existence considerable quantities of air are taken into the lungs for the maintenance of life, and yet very

able to spectators throughout the year, has been installed by the Carrier Engineering Co. Ltd., of 24, Buckingham-gate. It has been designed on latest scientific principles, and is under complete automatic control. It is therefore possible to cope with the sudden changes in the weather so often experienced in England without difficulty or without the intervention of the human attendant.

### THE ORGAN.

The organ is a Compton Unit organ, built by the John Compton Organ Co. Ltd., at their Chiswick and Acton Works, and is British throughout. Its construction is on the most up-to-date lines, and many new and exclusive features have been introduced.

Three large chambers on the prompt side of the proscenium arch house the main portions of the organ. There are a great number of pipes of all sizes varying from 20ft long by 15in in diameter to 3in in length and the thickness of a straw. Each pipe has



measures 147ft in diameter, and as an indication of its size it may be mentioned that it would cover the middle of Leicester-square.

There are four lounges—foyer restaurant, circle lounge, tea-room, and stalls promenade—each of which is decorated in a pleasing and attractive manner, and every consideration has been shown for the comfort and convenience of patrons.

There are four projectors and two sets of Western Electric talking film apparatus, and these, together with the very large stage (the largest in England), will permit of a programme being provided that will cater for every taste. It is the intention of the management to present both talking and silent films and also to provide a stage presentation at every performance.

Not the least of the many unique features in this remarkable theatre is the fact that the prices of the seats range from the humble shilling to a maximum of three shillings—at which latter price the most expensive reserved seat may be secured.

The Astoria Cinema has been built by Messrs. Griggs and Son, and it forms another and substantial support of this firm's claim to have "reared the fabric of modern London's entertainment world."

The building operations have extended over a period of twelve months, and have involved the excavation and removal of upwards of 15,000 cubic yards of earth, the laying of upwards of 2,000,000 bricks, and the erection of over a thousand tons of steel-work.

In addition, Messrs. Griggs have co-

little attention was paid to the purity of the air so consumed. Great attention is paid to cleanliness and preparation of food, and from the health point of view the air consumed should receive equally careful treatment. Water for human consumption is tested and protected against contamination in every possible way, yet until the advent of air conditioning very little thought or trouble was expended on the purification or the prevention of contamination of the air.

All the air which enters the auditorium of the Brixton Astoria will be thoroughly washed and cleaned before distribution. The immense purifying effect of such treatment is proved by the absolute necessity for continued replacement of the water, which becomes charged with the dirt and dust of the London atmosphere. The air then entering the theatre is cleaned from dust and noxious gases, it is at the correct humidity and temperature for human comfort, and, finally, it is distributed in such a way that it cannot be re-contaminated by dust or dirt from the floor.

It is useless carefully preparing the air if it is to be admitted to the theatre from the floor level, where it stirs up the dust and dirt.

In the Brixton Astoria the conditioned air is ejected into the auditorium near the ceiling level, and the impetus of the incoming air is used gently to move the internal atmosphere so that the fresh, clean air is carried into every corner of the building.

The equipment for providing this clean, healthy atmosphere, pleasant and comfort-

its own separate wind supply, valve, and electro-magnet on the special system designed and developed by Mr. John Compton, and the response of the organ to the demands of the organist are instantaneous.

This organ is the first theatre organ in this country to have two consoles. These will be of three-manual type, with some 180 stop keys, and every facility to enable the organist easily to control the mass of tone and effect at his command.

The mechanism of the organ is electrically operated, and is of exclusive Compton design. The blowing apparatus is located in a special chamber adjacent to the main organ chambers, and consists of a specially designed rotary blower, driven by an electric motor, which also operates the generator for the organ mechanism. This apparatus raises several thousand cubic feet of air a minute to high pressure.

The total number of parts in the organ approximates to 500,000, and nearly 100 miles of insulated wire has been used in the manufacture and connections of the various electrical movements.

### STAGE EQUIPMENT.

The substantial fireproof curtain in the Astoria has been supplied by Frank Burkitt, the well-known stage equipment engineer, of 10, Lant-street, S.E. 1, who has also been responsible for the lantern lights over the stage, together with their operating gear.

Other equipments supplied by Frank Burkitt include the mild steel shutters and ventilating ducts in the projection rooms,

# Health and Comfort

are ensured by

# Carrier

# Ventilation

**Carrier Engineering Company Ltd**

24 Buckingham Gate, London.

# COMPTON

THE WORLD'S BEST THEATRE ORGAN

THE ASTORIA THEATRE, BRIXTON, is the first Theatre in Great Britain to instal a Grand Organ having two Consoles. The instrument can be played at will from either or both Consoles. Its power ranges from a mighty Fortissimo to a mere whisper. This Compton Organ has built into it the experience of 25 years of theatre organ construction. It contains many new and exclusive Compton features.

Compton Organs are British in conception and in craftsmanship. They have gained a word-wide reputation on merit alone. In theatre music they are supreme.

INQUIRIES INVITED.

Telephone: Chiswick 1476

**JOHN COMPTON ORGAN COMPANY, LTD.**  
CHISWICK, LONDON, W.4.

# BRIXTON ASTORIA

The Magnificent Proscenium Opening has been fitted with  
**FIREPROOF CURTAIN**

Made and installed complete by

# FRANK BURKITT BORO', S.E.1.

The whole of the Steel Structure being made complete at our Works and erected complete by our own Staff, and can be raised by two men in one minute, hand controlled.