



Organ console is backstage at the Granada Slough, and was projected by CCTV for members in the theatre. Byron Jones at the console and Dave Ross behind the camera.



Compere Norman Barfield chatting with Byron Jones prior to the concert at the Granada Slough.

### London Chapter Uses Closed Circuit TV For Concert

Sunday, October 24 saw a unique experiment taking place when the London and South of England Chapter presented Byron Jones in concert on the 3/8 Wurlitzer at the Granada Cinema, Slough. It might seem that neither the word unique nor experiment would apply to such a venture, until one realizes that the console of this very fine organ is completely hidden behind the screen of the tripled cinema and it has not been heard in public for eleven years.

With the enthusiastic cooperation of the Granada management and particularly of the manager of the theatre, Mr. Simpson, and his staff, a system of closed circuit TV was installed, enabling the large audience in the cinema to see Byron's features and fingers at the console while reveling in the sounds of the instrument lovingly brought to tuneful excellence by Les and Len Rawle and their dedicated band of helpers.

Doubts about the feasibility of presenting a concert in such conditions were very soon resolved as the cinema resounded to the sounds of the mighty Wurlitzer once more. Byron says he found it strange at first playing to the beady eye of a TV camera, but soon settled to producing music which was enthusiastically acclaimed by the audience. The twin monitors of the closed circuit TV expertly operated by Dave Ross showed the console remarkably clearly, more clearly in fact than would normally be the case

watching a concert on stage from circle seats. There is no doubt that this idea has tremendous potential even with concerts under more usual conditions.

At the end of the concert the audience gave vociferous assent to the suggestion that another such event be

staged soon. The ATOS Chapter can be justifiably proud of its faith in putting on this concert. Thanks are due to Byron, to Granada, to Dave Ross and to all those who worked so hard to see that this beautiful instrument can be heard again in public.

NORMAN BARFIELD □

## ATOS Committee Reports

### YOUNG ORGANIST'S AWARD COMMITTEE REPORT

We are glad to report that the Young Organist's Award Committee is alive and working, and hopes to have a young organist to present at a future convention.

Committee members include: Walter Beaupre of Kingston, Rhode Island; Art Cox of Maplewood, New Jersey; Erle Renwick of Sudbury, Massachusetts; and Roy Sharp of Florham Park, New Jersey. National Director Allen Miller is also serving on the committee as liaison with the National Board. It would have been nice to have representation from a broader geographical area, but the ability to get interaction between committee members, to meet together and bounce ideas off each other and arrive at decisions which represent pooled judgment — this seemed to outweigh any advantages in having different geograph-

ical areas represented; a stance with which both Allen Miller and President Lois Segur concurred.

The committee has already come up with two major decisions: First, that a "young" organist for purposes of our competition is one who is not over 21 at the time of first appearance as winner at a national convention; second, that the way a chapter chooses a candidate is entirely up to the chapter. The only requirement for entry in the national competition is that a tape recording containing the specified music played by an organist within the age limitation and certified by the chapter to be a true and accurate recording be submitted by the specified date. Provision is also being made for submission of entries by ATOS members who do not belong to chapters, or who wish to sponsor a candidate independent of any chapter.

The committee is obtaining input from three full-time professional artists who are National directors, namely Lowell Ayars, Rex Koury and Ashley Miller. By the next issue, we expect to publish full details, and will also mail them as soon as available to Chapter Chairmen.

To assist chapters that might like to start planning for a chapter competition, see the article in this issue entitled "About Theatre Organ Competitions," which I hope will be of help to those chapters that have never staged one. Anyone requesting further information on this, or on any facet of our planning, is invited to write to me at 664 Litchfield Turnpike, Bethany, Connecticut 06525.

We hope that chapters and individual members will back this effort to bring young organists to know and love the mighty theatre pipe organ as we do, and to give deserving young organists a national forum in which to be heard.

Eleanor D. Weaver, *Chairman* □