

# Cape's 'Carmen' for Jo'burg stage

By  
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"CARMEN JONES," the adaptation into a Negro setting of Bizet's "Carmen," is one of the productions which the Eoan cultural group from Cape Town hopes to present in Johannesburg early next year if a suitable venue can be found. Their last visits, in 1960 and 1965, proved popular and they should be set for another sell-out visit.

Also planned for presentation are the full length opera "The Barber of Seville" and a series of concerts from "A Night at the Opera," which features well-loved arias and arrangements in a pot-pourri of opera highlights.

The Eoan group is a cultural association of Coloured people whose enthusiasm and hard work have developed it from a handful of music lovers in 1932 to a well co-ordinated 80-strong company.

In November this year, the Eoan Group Cultural Centre, incorporating the Joseph Stone Auditorium, was handed over by

pit and backstage facilities, as well as a permanent home where schools for ballet, drama, music and opera will be established next year.

Dr. Joseph S. Manca has been the leading light of the group for 27 years, and has recently been appointed administrative head and cultural director ("after all this time, I actually got a title," he chuckled).

This week he paid a flying visit to Johannesburg to try to arrange a suitable venue for the group's tour, which will be the third time that the singers and musicians will have entertained audiences here.

This year they played to 20,000 people in Cape Town's City Hall, where 24 performances of "Il Trovatore," "The Barber of Seville" and "La Traviata" were staged for mixed

are under way to present similar concerts for the non-Whites in Paarl, Stellenbosch, Worcester and Malmesbury.

In Johannesburg, the Eoan group hopes to entertain White audiences at an in-town venue, and also to take the programme to Coronationville.

## Auden poem as pop song

LONDON. — W. H. Auden enters the field of pop music shortly when one of his earlier short poems, Roman Wall Blues, which has been set to music by Alex Harvey, the 32-year-old lead guitarist from the musical "Hair" is released this month as a single.

The poem is later being used as the title track of a long-playing record by Harvey which is due out in December.

Harvey, a folk and blues singer, came across the poem



## Unity

"Unity" is the theme of a huge sculpture now decorating the banking hall of one of Johannesburg's larger building societies. It is the work of Herman Wald, the Hungarian-born Johannesburg sculptor whose other striking work, the arc of leaping springbok forming the Oppenheimer Fountain, stands in a nearby city square. Mr. Wald, seen in the background with an intrigued depositor, explains his massive work as "the positive in battle between the constructive and obstructive. In other words, one can undo anything except an interlocking unity."

