

OPENING OF CORT'S COLONIAL THEATRE

The feature of the coming month in local theatrical circles will be the opening of the new Colonial Theatre, which will take place about the middle of November, the opening attraction being Nordica, the famous prima donna.

In giving this fine new playhouse to Salt Lake, it has been necessary to expend something in the neighborhood of \$175,000. This was supplied by the Auerbach estate, represented by Mr. G. S. Auerbach, who, though a young man to be at the head and front of the large undertakings, backed by the Auerbach interests here, has won an enviable position among the young business men of the West.

John Cort, who, in a comparatively brief time, has taken a prominent place among the big theatrical men of the United States, is well known to Salt Laker. When his productions first began to come here his name sounded a little strange and new, but after a season or two of successes the town grew to know more about John Cort, and when the new Colonial Theatre

was projected, and it was found that he would be the controlling spirit of the enterprise, there was rejoicing among the theatre-goers, who knew that under his supervision Salt Lake would have a playhouse conducted along the lines of the most approved modern methods, and that they could depend upon him to add materially to the pleasure of those fond of high-class amusements.

Mr. R. A. Grant, who so long has represented the Cort interests in this part of the country, will be the local manager of the new Colonial—a clever move on the part of Mr. Cort, for Mr. Grant is extremely popular, locally, and of recognized ability as a theatrical manager.

It may be a little early to describe the new theatre at length, but it is so quickly assuming its permanent shape that it might be just as well to give a brief outline of the house.

The interior, when finished, will carry out the Colonial idea of simplicity, both in decoration and ornamentation. It will be finished in green and white and gold, with lighting effects in the

wall panels and ceilings, with no exposed brackets. From every seat on the lower floor, the balcony and the gallery, and the twelve boxes at the sides, a proper vision of the stage may be had, and the interior has been so planned that when all the seats are taken—and there will be over seventeen hundred of them—it will be possible



John Cort, Lessee of the Colonial Theatre



G. S. Auerbach, Owner of the Colonial

for all to see and hear what is going on behind the footlights. There will be over seven hundred seats on the ground floor and over five hundred seats in each of the galleries. A nice feature of the balcony will be the foyer, with a promenade extending behind the balcony, and from which the people there can watch those entering the lobby.

The lobby itself is 100 feet long and over 20 feet wide, with the box offices midway on the left as you enter the building. Another excellent feature of the theatre will be a separate entrance and box office on the east side of the building for those who sit in the gallery, obviating any possibility of crowding at the main entrance of the theatre.

The convenience and comfort of those on the stage, as well as the patrons, has been looked after, with modern dressing rooms to accommodate a company of a hundred people if necessary.

All in all, the theatre will be as nearly perfect as any playhouse in the West, and this city owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Cort and Mr. Auerbach, who have made the project possible.

Mr. Cort will be here to attend the opening, and will remain in Salt Lake a day or two attending his various interests, for he is also the guiding spirit in the construction of the Lyceum Theatre which he will open a little later in the year.

The appearance of Nordica, the opening night at the Colonial, will be the only time she will be heard here this season. Unquestionably it will be a great first night audience that will greet her in the new house, though it is too bad that all those who would like to attend the opening will be unable to get in the theatre. The Wagnerian prima donna is coming from the East, not on a regular tour, but simply to honor Salt Lake on the opening night of the Colonial. Her only other appearance this side of Chicago will be in Denver, where she will sing just before her arrival