Gershwin Hall Unveiling Planned for Next Month

BY ED MOSER

The Gershwin Hall, "little theater," wing of the new student art center—hitherto termed "The Hole"—will be ready for occupancy within four weeks, according to the Assistant Civil Engineer Harold Zarember, and Construction Supervisor Irving Schwartz.

Although the "little theater" requires only completion of lighting installations, paintings, and the finalizing of odds and ends, it has been indicated that the main theater wing will not be ready until February, 1954, at the earliest.

Mr. Zarember, the Board of Higher Education's Assistant Civil Engineer for the project, said that the "little theater" wing will contain a lecture hall in the basement, storage and practice room, a theater with a capacity of 300 people, and a top floor with several classrooms. The lighting in the classrooms is all fluorescent, and ventilation will be supplied by an air-conditioning system. Acoustic lining lines the ceil-

ors and rooms.

Advanced Facilities

Something new will be added in the form of a promenade deck on the roof of the newly-constructed theater-wing, which, according to Mr. Zarember, will be suitable for dancing in the warmer seasons.

Gettling around to the main theater, Mr. Zarember said that the stage and advanced lighting equipment will be the largest and best in New York, with the exception of the Radio City Music Hall. The stage and orchestra pits will be equipped with pneumatic lifts to raise and lower them, and the lighting, wings, and other equipment are the most advanced. The 5000-seat audience capacity will be twice that of Carnabase Hall.

Main Buildings

In the main building, besides the auditorium, there will be a lecture hall, practice and storage rooms, and a student and a public lounge. The student lounge will be marble-lined between 30 and 40 feet high, with a balcony which will go all around the upper part of the room.

The main entrances to the auditorium will be marble-lined, and the approaches to both wings be made of flagstone. Soon after con-

struction on the "little theater" has been finished, landscaping for the entire project area will begin.

Still Off-Limits

Mr. Zarember, a graduate of CCNY, indicated that the "little theater" wing might be painted in pastels. He warned though, that until construction is completed, no students will be allowed on the site, since there is still danger of live wiring, falling objec-
tos, etc.

At the same time, it was learned that construction will start soon on the new library wing, and that the second of two structures to be built in the near future on the Queens College Campus will be an art center comparable to the one now being completed at BC.

Further Delays Cause Set-Back Of Hall Opening

Despite the fact that the main construction work on the George Gershwin Theater—the "little theater" wing of Whitman Hall—will be finished within a month, it will not be available for use at that time, according to Mr. Arthur Hillery, BC Business Manager.

As yet, the contracts have not been let for the furnishing of the class-rooms, theater, and for the lighting equipment for the stage. In addition, two coats of paint and asphalt tiling for the theater door must still be put in.

An obstacle to the ultimate opening of the theater, once completed, has reportedly been overcame. Joseph Cavallero, president of the Board of Higher Education, has indicated that there will be an appropriation in the Board's budget to hire maintenance men for the building.

Barring another building trade strike, or other unforeseen emer-
gencies, Mr. Hillery anticipates the opening of both the main thea-

ter wing and George Gershwin Hall by February.