

The following information was obtained from 626 complete or partial responses to questionnaires sent to 1,270 community theaters over the past 4 years by the American Community Theater Association (ACTA), a division of the American Educational Theater Association:

Number of theaters.—The ACTA has compiled a list of 1,270 community theaters in the United States. The Rockefeller Panel report indicates there may be as many as 40,000.

Construction and financing.—Two hundred and seventy-nine community theaters have their own facilities, and all are privately funded; 181 use local school facilities; and 161 use leased or rented civic auditoriums, private halls, or movie houses.

Number of productions.—The number of annual major productions by community theaters ranges from 1 to 12.

Audiences.—The average audience per production (average house times number of performances) in community theaters ranges from 150 to 3,900 persons.

Regional breakdown.—The Northeast has as many community theaters as the Midwest and the West combined, and more than twice as many as the South. The largest number of these theaters was formed between 1951 and 1960.

Community theater development

Region	When formed					
	Pre-1921	1921-30	1931-40	1941-50	1951-60	1961-66
Northeast (249 respondents out of 534 theaters).....	17	21	42	39	71	28
South (111 respondents out of 213 theaters).....	6	15	13	31	26	12
Midwest (196 respondents out of 382 theaters).....	9	26	30	38	61	15
West (70 respondents out of 141 theaters).....	4	7	13	16	17	10
Total.....	36	69	98	124	175	65

Source: American Community Theater Association.

VIII. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY THEATERS

There are 1,420 college and university theater groups listed in the *Directory of American College Theaters* published in 1960 by the American Educational Theater Association. Three hundred and seventy-three are in the Northeast, 427 in the South, 396 in the Midwest, and 224 in the West.

In a 1957-58 U.S. Office of Education survey of colleges and university facilities, only 227 institutions were listed as having campus theater buildings. Most student theater groups were operating in lecture halls and auditoriums.

Regional breakdown.—The 227 theater buildings pinpointed by the U.S. Office of Education were located in 39 States and were fairly evenly distributed throughout the four regions. Only 44 institutions indicated that their theater facilities had been rehabilitated since the date of establishment.