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THE ANTA RENAMED THE VIRGINIA

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The ANTA Theater, 245 West 52d Street, will be renamed the Virginia Theater next month in honor of Virginia Binger, who owns the playhouse with her husband, James. The renaming will take place after the ANTA's occupant, the Pilobolus Dance Theater, ends its engagement Jan. 10.

The ANTA was acquired from the nonprofit American National Theater and Academy in August by Jujamcyn Theaters, which was established in 1956 by Mrs. Binger's father, William McKnight, a founder of Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing. He called his theater company Jujamcyn, after his three grandchildren, Judith, James and Cynthia.

Jujamcyn's first theater was the St. James. Mr. McKnight bought it from the Shubert Organization after the Justice Department ordered Shubert to divest itself of some of its New York theaters in 1956. Ten years later, Mr. McKnight acquired the Martin Beck. In recent months, Jujamcyn has announced plans to expand in New York and has purchased the ANTA and the Ritz.

The ANTA opened in 1925 as the Guild, home of the Theater Guild. Its first production was Shaw's "Caesar and Cleopatra" starring Helen Hayes.

In 1943, the Guild became a radio playhouse. It was restored as a legitimate theater in 1950 and renamed the ANTA.

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