

# Macabre humour in Wimborne playlets

For their spring production Wimborne Drama Club presented at the Modern School, last week-end, 'Little Boxes,' comprising two playlets. Both were set in a substantially-constructed three-level setting of flatlets.

The first, 'The Coffee Lace,' concerns a group of elderly ex-theatrical folk—living in the half-world of senility, and ending up by selling the corpse of one of their number to raise money to provide an anniversary celebration for those remaining. As the three couples involved, John and Elizabeth Anthony (Jimmy and Rose), Tony Pawley and Thelma Dryden (Johnny and Lily) and James Glanfield and Muriel Brooks (Sonny and Iris) gave sincere performances which highlighted both the tragedy of the situation and the macabre humour arising from it. Graham Brown was equally sincere as Mr. Davis—a pawnbroker's stage-struck assistant—striving desperately to bring the sextette back to earth. Peggy Tyack and Brenda Simmons capably filled the supporting roles of Miss Peel and Madge.

The second playlet, 'Trevor,' centres on a pair of lesbians who dragoon an out-of-work actor into helping them to bamboozle their respective parents, when they arrive simultaneously. While conforming to the conventions of the 'permissive society,' this playlet has all the familiar ingredients of farce. Richard Withers had a boisterous and exhausting part as the actor, Trevor.

The girls whose love life was thrown into turmoil—Sarah Lawrence and Jane Kempton—were well contrasted by Jenni Waring and Janine Brockes. Pat Nott and Nick Carter played well as Sarah's unnatural mother and compliant father, and Tricia Marlow and Tony Pawley were convincing as Jane's possessive mother and her spouse. Tim Eling supported as the landlord, Mr. Hudson.

Production was ably directed by Derek Saunders, and Alan Lewis stage-managed, assisted by Chris Ridout, Ian Raeburn, Mike Waring, Jennie Lewis, Arthur Brooks, Peter Brooks, Helen Hatton, and Linda Pawley. T.A.