

DON'T MAKE DRAMA A FARCE

A BIG disappointment came the way of the members of Wimborne Drama Club last Thursday, the first night of their farce, *Queen Elizabeth Slept Here*, staged at the Women's Institute Hall, Wimborne—only 27 filled the seats out front.

Still, the next two nights' audiences were better. And those who saw the production must agree that the Talbot Rothwell three-act play was well presented by the 13-member cast.

Top marks go to producers Anthony Allison and Thelma Dryden.

But there is a black mark for local people who did not support the play. For those who didn't see it

here's a warning: If you don't leave your television sets occasionally to support local shows there will soon be no shows to support.

For even the keenest amateurs won't carry on when the size of audiences make production a farce in itself.

Farce is difficult to put over well and get the laughs. But the audiences found plenty to smile about in this production.

Biggest laughter-maker was countrified Mr. Kimber, played by cheerful Padgy Brooman. He captured the country character and voice of Mr. Kimber to make many humorous situations.

Then came the quietly polished Sam Fawcett taking the part of the they - think - I'm - rich - but - I'm - really -

broke Uncle Stanley. His performance would have done credit to any ageing relative who complains at the slightest discomfort.

Another good performance came from Thelma Dryden playing Rita Leslie. Rita, a hardened actress, is found to be stony even to the extent of taking her husband's flirtations with other women for granted. Arthur Brooks plays husband Clayton Shaw.

Creating a good deal of noise and trouble was Raymond, played by Christopher Rideout. Christopher had a good time bounding about and shouting on and off stage.

RUN-DOWN

Norah and Michael Fuller, played by Margaret Dodd and John Anthony, bought a run-down cottage. Michael didn't like it. . . . Norah did.

But Norah had support in her home choice from Madge Fuller (Patricia Wood) and Steve Hadlett (Kenneth Dodd).

Dealing with the culinary side of life at the cottage, which was becoming a big liability for the Fullers, was Katie (Esmé Henbest), who resigned, and country girl Hester (Daphne Young), who got into trouble with a local male friend.

Two neighbours who crop up in the story are Mrs. Douglas (Stella Tory) and the villain of the comedy, Colonel Prescott (Donald Waterfield).

Providing the incidental music was Mr. John Chalmers; stage management and lighting was arranged by R. Cowling and E. Henbest; wardrobe was done by Pamela Mottram; properties by Jennifer Meek; effects by Gordon Cottrill; make-up, L. H. Mottram; house manager, W. L. Young; business manager, K. C. Dodd; prompt, Katherine Waterfield.

P.S.