

"The Buds Of Ballybunion" Opens Monday

On Monday night next Theatre of the South will premiere John B. Keane's "The Buds of Ballybunion" at the Cork Opera House. Already this show has received its Dublin premiere and been given excellent press notices. In Tralee it played to big and very enthusiastic audiences, while in Clonmel not a single seat was available during its run.

One Dublin critic declared, "John B. Keane's play triumphed — what is has to say is lively and witty and gay — be sure to see it." While another had this to say: "The Buds of Ballybunion" is a play that in its innocent way dances into the heart." Both obviously enjoyed John B's latest work for the stage for what it is — a light-hearted and humorous entertainment specially geared to give pleasure and enjoyment.

The laughter which greeted each new development in the plot, and the audience response to the

foot-tapping music (by Na Fili) and the dances proved that "The Buds of Ballybunion" had succeeded in its objective, to provide an evening of warm-hearted entertainment.

All the cast have their opportunities to add to the gaiety of the occasion. Flor Dullea as a father-fixated perpetual bachelor, Dan Donovan as a harassed priest at the mercy of his complaining widowed mother (Kay Healy), and her boon companion, another widow (Mary Foley) with an hilarious supply of mispronunciations; the sisters Tessie and Bessie (Mon Murphy and Valerie Carroll) in terror of men, particularly 'hairy' ones; the oldest Bud of them all (Charlie Ginnane), sharp and belligerent but with his secret fear; the kind-hearted landlady (Marie Twomey) and her sharp-eyed adoring daughter (Jo Cronin), the ever-loving couple (Mairin Prendergast and Chris Sheehan) who can't bear to

be parted and treasure the holiday by the hour; the outsider (James N. Healy) in a list of amusing cameo roles from local toper to prime solicitor, from embittered farmer to foolish 'hairy' man.

A fine collection of lovable and comic people who also have their own troubles and problems. As usual, with John B. Keane, he peoples the stage with interesting characters and injects them with his particular brand of charm, cunning, innocence and fun. He does not intend this as a weighty drama with social commentary and disturbing ideas.

The only disturbance you are likely to experience is gusts of laughter and with a collection of gentle, uncomplicated people! It's an entertainment to blow away your cares and make you feel that little happier.

Pat Murray has designed a splendid setting which catches the mood and locale of "The Buds" to perfection.



Two scenes from "The Buds" featuring (left) James N. Healy and Dan Donovan and (right) Jo Cronin and Charles Ginnane. Below is an overall view of a sequence from the John B. Keane play.

