

Time to celebrate

THE CURTAINS are up for a Downham theatre group who are performing Keith Waterhouse's *Celebration*.

Stage Two Downham kicked off last night (Wednesday) with their latest production which runs until Saturday night at the village hall, starting at 7.30pm.

The 16-strong cast have been rehearsing since September. Tickets are available from Pat Hargreaves, on Clitheroe 27296, or Janet Hulme, on Clitheroe 24157.

● Members of the cast were snapped in the wedding scene during rehearsal.



A vehicle for variety of acting talent

STAGE TWO, Downham, chose "*Celebration*" by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall for their autumn play.

A very popular 1960s comedy, it is one which has been a favourite with most amateur societies, particularly in the north, at one time or another.

It provides a vehicle for a variety of acting talent of all ages, as every character is quite clearly drawn — the romantic, the stupid, the pompous, the dominant, the workshy, the argumentative, the moaner, the cheeky, the tipplers and the tart.

The "celebrations" are a wedding in the first half and a funeral in the second and almost all the cast appear throughout as members and relatives of the same family.

The dialogue is witty and pithy in parts, empty and unsophisticated in others, but full of humour which calls for pace, punch and neat timing.

Mel Secrah, the director, had an enormous task here in that the stage is too small for the 12 or 14 actors who appear there at one time and it must have been a tremendous challenge to manoeuvre them and to control the whole operation, plus the fact that, in the first act, the actors also have to prepare places for a large wedding breakfast, a mammoth task also for the property master.

It would be impossible to comment on individual performances, as there was an abundance of talent.

Suffice it to say that the Stage Two regulars were there in profusion — Pat Hargreaves, Gerald Hood, Lesley Knight, Roy Oldroyd, Dorothy Gunning and Julie Howarth.

Most welcome visitors from other societies were Bill Taylor, Susan Cowell, Michael O'Hagan and Linda Leadbeater and some promising young actors, some of whom have already appeared in previous productions, were Teresa Alty, Ian Britcliffe, Brian Howarth, Richard Kay, Samantha Cleave and Mark Leadbeater.

Mention must be made of stage manager David King, his crew and all backstage staff, who created, dressed and lit two excellent sets and changed from one to another in record time.

BARBARA TAYLOR

They've plenty to celebrate



WINNING smiles from Stage Two Downham players may soon be seen all over the country... for the group is hoping that its summer performance of "*The Railway Children*" will be issued on a video of Keighley and Worth Valley Railway in time for Christmas, for distribution through W. H. Smith and Woolworth's.

Meanwhile, the players are getting adept at playing with smiles and tears, for their latest presentation, "*Celebration*," takes a northern family through a wedding and a funeral.

The two-act play, by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall, explores complex family relationships and is set in the late 1950s and early 1960s, with a cast of 16.

It opened last night, in Downham Village Hall, and is being performed for the rest of the week, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets can be obtained from Visions dress shop in Castlegate, Clitheroe; Hammond's confectioners in St Mary's Street, Clitheroe; Downham Post Office; or by ringing Pat Hargreaves (Clitheroe 27296) or Janet Hulme (Clitheroe 24157).

A display of memorabilia from the "*The Railway Children*" production will be mounted in the foyer during the performances. Our picture shows some of the cast at the dress rehearsal.

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE



□ GEARING up for their current production 'Celebration' which plays at Downham Village Hall until Saturday, are members of the Downham Stage Two company pictured here taking a break from some last-minute rehearsals. (Ref: DD 683/29)

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