

EXPERT TIMING IN WITTY PLAY

WADDINGTON Drama Group notched up yet another success last week with Barbara Price's excellent production of "Lloyd George Knew My Father" by William Douglas Home.

Any play by this author is sure to be entertaining and almost certainly will have popular appeal and this one is no exception. It is pleasant to watch, easy to listen to and gently humorous.

The actors, well-suited to their roles, and the producer extracted all possible mirth from the very witty dialogue and situations by some expert timing and delivery.

The plot is of little consequence, which matters not, provided the presentation is good, but is a tale of a proposed bypass encroaching on the land of General Sir William and Lady Boothroyd. The latter threatens to "do herself in" on the day the first bulldozer arrives, unless her son, Hubert Boothroyd MP, can use his political influence at the very highest level to prevent this happening.

He tries and fails, so mother prepares her final day on earth, to the dismay of her family, but changes her mind at the eleventh hour as she cannot resist seeing herself on "Panorama," an event caused by the publicity her threat has generated.

The lead roles, those of Sir William and Lady Boothroyd, are gems for any actors and two stalwarts of this group, Pat Hargreaves and Derek Green, gave us the pleasure of their performances.

Each complemented the other, she a most delight-

ful elderly lady, he loud and irritable, and both slightly dotty. Each adopted a stance and certain mannerisms to portray the characters and these were maintained throughout — two very pleasing performances which blended well together.

Another first rate performance came from Mel Scolah as the butler. His facial reactions to the confusing behaviour of his superiors were beautifully pointed and underplayed to just the right degree.

Bob Cleeve was suitably pompous as the thoroughly unlikeable Hubert and Lesley Knight, who had taken on her part at fairly short notice, was suitably poised and aristocratic. John Rice, also stepping in at a late date, gave a nicely rounded bumbling performance as the local

vicar.

It was a pleasure to see some talented newcomers in the roles of the young granddaughter Sally and her enthusiastic news reporter boyfriend, Simon, constantly looking for a scoop and making the most out of the Boothroyd dilemma.

Julia Smith and Andrew Whiteside slotted into these roles with ease and we hope to see them again, gaining experience perhaps in more demanding parts.

Invaluable work was done behind the scenes by many people, but mention must be made of the set constructed by David King which brought acclaim from the audience each night.

Many thanks to Barbara and her team for a most enjoyable evening.

B.T.