

## COLLEGE THEATRE

**THE ALL-ACTION** Edinburgh Fringe drama spectacular starts (for most) at the end of next week, and I have only a few tips to offer those trying to avoid timetabling vertigo. Oxford's unmissable programme is made easier by seeing Tom Thomas's intriguing-looking "Banzai Addio" at 5.30 any weekday from August 28 and staying for Gary O'Connor's premiere "Simmelweiss" or Storey's "Restoration of Arnold Middleton" at 7.30 on alternate nights, followed by their revue at 10.30. That leaves only the Wild West show and undergrad Doug Lucie's "John Clare's Mad, Nuncle" to be seen in two lunchtime visits at 12.45 — though there are other dates and times for most of the shows.

Bradford's two productions can be seen any night from August 23 to September 6, with Richard Crane's Nijinsky-Diaghilev investigation "Clownmaker" first at 8. (Will it complete the hat-trick of "Scotsman" Fringe awards for Bradford and Richard Crane?) Bradford are also giving open workshops daily at 5.30 (to 6.30) particularly for other fringe groups.

Cambridge will not be at full strength after all, so three promising premieres are lost — leaving only the inevitable Footlights and another horror show (Bradford have one too) plus the worthwhile Cambridge Young Chekhov Company's seven productions. Durham's gutsy four-some can be seen at the YWCA any day (ex Sun) from 2.30 to 11 in the first fortnight. Nottingham's recent hugely successful NSDF appearance with "Chicago" confirmed their rapid improvement in recent years and make their "Golden PathwayAnnual" production well worth

considering (Heriot Watt theatres to Sept 6). York play safer this year with Anouilh's "Antigone", and add to the current plethora of Shakespeare musicals (albeit diluted with Fletcher) with "Wanted", based on "Two Noble Kinsmen".

Welcome new blood (dormant lately, at least) from University College London ("America Hurrah", a revue, and a free audio-visual "interim" 1-13 Sept), Sussex University ("Passion Play" and, for kids, "The Beesneeze Affair" — both promising scripts — plus a "Body Show" event), Crewe and Alsager Union with Bond's "Saved", and Sheffield with Albee's "Tiny Alice" and a "Whittington and Cat" show.

Other student highspots could well be found among Bristol Revunions's new David Mallinson play "The Slope" (as well as their perennial revue, or their musical version of "Le Melade Imaginaire"). Doncaster College's musical documentary on secondary education "Heads You Lose, Tails I Win", Edinburgh's miscellany, including "Twenty Years A-Growing" by Dylan Thomas, and the varied programmes from Stirling, Reading, Cleveland Tech, Coventry School of Drama, Moray House, Bath, Dundee, and Swindon College. After last year's great triumph, Tangent's single Sylvia Plath production cannot be ignored: 23 and 30 only.

The 21st National Student Drama Festival will be held in Scotland for the first time ever and run from (approximately) April 2-11 1976. Negotiations are now under way for Edinburgh's Lyceum, Young Lyceum and Traverse theatres, and it is hoped to use the Heriot Watt Union as the Festival Centre. — **CLIVE WOLFE.**