

## Clive Wolfe on COLLEGE THEATRE

THE NATIONAL Student Theatre Company is to tour for the first time at the end of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, which begins for several companies today and ends on September 9. Two of the NSTC's seven productions will start touring in the Lothian region; two come to the West End from September 18 to 30, playing at the Almost Free, Piccadilly, and bookings are now being completed for other venues around Britain. More details in this column next month. Contact until September 9 is via 031-554 6344.

Another first-timer for the NSTC is the incorporation of music students, who are augmenting the basic solo piano for the new K. W. Ross musical tragedy "Oscar Wilde: A Savoy Opera" into a small orchestra for the Edinburgh run. As the NSTC includes four catering staff this year, its versatility is already apparent.

Elsewhere on the Fringe, I see that Bristol University Opera Company are presenting a "show with no actors." Hardly calculated to bring cheers from STAGE readers, but in marked contrast to Bristol Revunions, who move to the Transport Hall, Annandale Street, (with a large programme, as usual) to make way, at their traditional Heriot Watt home, for the new Bristol Express Theatre Company, Andy Jordan's baby. A potentially confusing piece of schizophrenia — or is it binary fission? — which leaves the bemused student of Fringe form with a greater choice of attractive goodies, including premises of Tolkien's only play "The Homecoming of Beornoth Beorthelm's Son"; Strindberg's "Storm;" Dave Cohen's "One Man, Punk-folk (rock) opera" "Guts;" and a matching solo show "The Gospel

According to Lenny."

Cambridge Mummings move, this Fringe, to St Ann's Centre, Cowgate (quite near the Traverse) for their truly varied programme whose four premieres range from a genuine kids' show "Captain Whizzo," through the apparently feminist "Wife Fronts" to a fresh essay in bizarre Japanese sado-sexuality "Madame De Sade," via the reassuringly comfortable songs, jokes and Edwardian scandal of "A Proper Pantomime," (turns in the life of Marie Lloyd). Cambridge ADC take their NSDF finalist "The Burning of Carthage," developed since April after sessions with Mike Leigh, to the Crown Theatre (licence permitting) with five other plays. Co-author of the huge 1977 Fringe success (and Award winner) "Private Dick," Richard Maher has written this year's "Kiev," "a semi-detached spy story" and "Winner," about the dangers of isolation in a competitive society, starring Paul Hudson, the 1977 Philip Marlowe.

Durham University Fringe Theatre premiere a Simon Harries musical "British Backs Against The Wall," which takes the lid off Mafeking; an appetising prospect for those who enjoyed his "Hold Your Horses, Mussolini" with the Welsh College of Music and Drama at the St Andrews NSDF.