

COWARD PLAY EXCELLENT

Noel Coward's lively comedy "Present Laughter" is one of the most diverting stage plays Brisbane has seen in years.

Last night's showing by Brisbane Repertory Theatre players was brilliant fooling. Under Alex. Foster's direction the spirits and flickering syllables of Coward's witty dialogue flowed with refreshing smoothness and ease.

Mervyn Eadie as the actor besieged by women, was well spoken, as well as decorative, and carried much of the comedy. Others, including Betty Ross, Coila McCracken, Gwen Wheeler, Reg. Watson, and Gloria Birdwood-Smith were competent, and fitted into the general Coward plan.

The piece will end its season in the Albert Hall on Saturday.—NELSON BURNS.