

REPERTORY THEATRE

Humour and Pathos Blend

The incompatibility between the atmosphere of red tape and sealing-wax of a Government office and the divine afflatus of the poetic drama provides the theme of the amusing comedy-drama by Seraffin and Joaquin Quintero, "Don Abel Wrote a Tragedy," presented last night, at the Princess Theatre, for the first time in Australia, by the Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society. The leading roles were played by Mr. Jum Pendleton (Don Abel Secano), Misses Dulcie Wood (Irene), Gwen Campbell (Fidela), Barbara Blake (Felisa), and Agnes Cullen (Dona Antonia Pacheco), ably supported by a large cast.

Mr. Jum Pendleton was producer, and Mr. Roy Black honorary stage manager. The incidental music, which was of a high standard, was provided by the Brisbane Repertory Society's orchestra, under the baton of Mr. Erich John. The scene of the play being Spanish, the orchestral numbers consisted of pieces blending delightfully with the character of the drama, and included an interlude and dance antique by Mr. Erich John.

Mr. Pendleton's performance of the stage-struck Don Abel was an excellent piece of characterisation. Miss Gwen Campbell, as the talkative lady, who has "come down in the world" created much laughter. Pathos as well as humour entered into the stage obsession of Don Abel, who forsakes his official position to essay the role of dramatist, only to find Pegasus a difficult horse to ride. The performance is to be repeated to-night.