

AT THE DROP
OF ANOTHER
CLANGER

1977

Hampton Court Theatre

Improvement
with 'clanger

AFTER the less-than-first-rate showing that Teddington Theatre Club put up in Shaw's "Heartbreak House," it was a real delight to see the Club's revue "At the drop of another clanger," at Hampton Court Theatre last week.

One of the strengths of this company lies in its ability to maintain a sense of pace in its comedy offerings, and Philip Hickson, who devised and directed this show, demonstrated that he can elicit this type of response from his cast.

Certainly, some of the items outstayed their welcome, but I reckon that a success rate of 22 out of 25—not to mention the short "turns" between them to cover scene changes—rates pretty well for an evening of light entertainment.

A cast of eight—three women and five men—assisted by Peter Roberts at the piano and Gordon Edwards on percussion, kept the laughter ringing round the theatre.

I liked particularly a cod ballet sequence, with diminutive Patti Bottomley as premier danseur struggling to cope with the tall

figure of Fiona Andrews as her ballerina, while Jimmie Chinn and John Roth were superb as a couple of stage hands trying to sort out the mess that the other two were in.

Doug Andrews and David Payne supplied brilliant "backing" to Martin Smith's Magnificent take-off of Gary Glitter, and Dorothy Jones had me in stitches with her "high-class" lady on the phone to Harrods, spelling out every word of her "refined" speech.

If TTC can channel this enthusiasm into its major productions, which have not been as satisfying as usual over the past few months, then the Club will soon regain its place as my favourite amateur group.

This was an evening of sheer fun—may we have more of them.

GEORGE ALLAN