

House Fairy'

Eye, see Ongoing

atest production from New
am Varieties a mother and
go to hospital to await the birth
newest baby, leaving their
ve children at home alone
er. Ignoring the instructions
um has carefully taped to the
the children start by gorging on
kes and then leave the kitchen
s before going to bed without
g or cleaning their teeth.

Cue the entrance of the house fairy who, horrified by the mess, sets about cleaning up, aided by the bin bogey and mysterious hands which emerge from the washing machine to grab the dirty clothes. In the course of the night that follows, the children reawaken and a host of garden fairies come in from outside, before the children's parents finally return home with their new sibling.

While the story is slight, it serves as a framework for some lovely ensemble singing and dancing routines and there is plenty of audience interaction of the 'It's behind you!' variety. The garden fairies' costumes (by Chick Bruton and Dagmar Ehni) are exquisite.

The play is aimed at three-to-nine-year-olds and the cast, bar the two adult performers, is roughly the same age as much of the audience. There are two alternating casts, each made up of 13 local children, some of whose self-possession and talent is truly impressive. Their voices may not have West End clarity or power – but then again, you would be hard pressed to find anything in the West End to match this for show for freshness and charm. *Jane Campbell*