

The Questors Theatre Archives

Questories

8th New Plays Festival 1967

The Stage and Television Today 29 June 1967

Death and Gangsters

"PRIVATE FIRES" by Fred Watson, the third and final play of the 1967 Ealing Questors New Play Festival, turned out to be a disappointment. This new play, by the author of the exciting, prize-winning "Infanticide in the House of Fred Ginger", promised to be a black comedy of more than usual macabre proportions. It turned out to be a lighter than grey play made up from scraps left over from almost every dark hued play of the last quartet of years.

The basic themes of the plot are concerned with death and gangsters. Mr. Watson uses unconnected speech patterns and comedy routine ideas for more serious ends. Unfortunately the patterns he establishes in this work are overwrought or under-nourished.

P.W.B.