

'BELOVED CLASSIC'

by Graham Harris

A much loved Australian classic explodes with life in this musical interpretation cleverly devised by David Reeves.

The story line is not all that happy. In a military household, seven normally boisterous Australian children frequently get themselves into trouble, invariably led by their sister, Judy. Eventually Judy is banished from the home and sent to boarding school in the Blue Mountains from which she escapes and ultimately, dies.

The good news is that in this thoroughly enjoyable musical David Reeves has composed some catchy music, Pamela French has added some energetic choreography, respected designer Kenneth Rowell has turned the tiny Footbridge stage into an expansive and interesting piece of colonial suburban Sydney and, with corporate sponsorship from James Hardie Industries, the resultant package is bound to succeed.

John O'May stars and directs the production and perhaps this may be too taxing, for the direction was sometimes lax.

Each of the children were well cast, but Melissa Bickerton as Judy was out-standing. With her flurry of red curls she jumped, danced, and exploded around the stage with most appealing style.

Other strong contributions were made by Judy Glen (particularly as Miss Burton in her school of deportment) and Robert Berry (especially as the flamboyant French teacher, Monsieur Marceau).

One can always nit pick but one should remember you go to the theatre to be entertained and entertainment you will receive in generous proportions with Seven Little Australians – the musical.
