

Stage family success

LEFT: The family shows its concern when John (Geoffrey Hall, front) cries after being picked on at school.

Picture:
**COLIN
ROBERTSON**



NOT so much a play, more a tale of everyday folk, living, loving and fighting — John Godber's comedy *Happy Families* makes rich theatrical entertainment.

Workington Playgoers Club raised the curtain on their new season last night

At the theatre

PHIL CRAM

like they've never done before — by performing the world premiere of master playwright Godber's specially commissioned work.

The fact that 48 other Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain companies

were doing the same thing at about the same time took nothing from the splendid occasion.

funny piece of theatre clearly stands or falls on the quality of the work that goes in to the central char-

acter of John Taylor, a likeable rebel with a restless spirit and a superbly droll sense of humour. The Playgoers' Club have come up with Geoff Hall — and for me he hits it right on the button with a performance that is a veritable tour de force.

Ranged behind the central player are a selection

of family from far and near — wherein nearly all human life can be found.

Derek Thompson as Vic Taylor, John's father, does some brilliant work and constantly evokes memories of the late and great Leonard Rossiter.

Pauline Harkness, Geoff and Marjorie Hool, Anne Dickens, Sylvia Paulin,

Carol Jamieson and Sally Burgess (in a very minor role) snuggle well in to the psyche of the characters they play.

A very difficult play to stage, it is not at all difficult to follow — mainly because there is no conventional plot. It is more of a richly developed sketch about a family of ordinary