

Playgoers to make an angelic return to refurbished theatre

BY FEDERICA BEDENDO

federica.bedendo@cnmedia.co.uk

A WORKINGTON theatre group is gearing up to perform in its refurbished theatre for the first time since its reopening.

Members of Workington Playgoers are due to perform *Entertaining Angels* at the Theatre Royal from Tuesday until Saturday.

The group, which owns the Washington Street building, had temporarily relocated to Moorclose while work to revamp the 150-year-old theatre was taking place.

This is their first show in the renovated venue.

Pat Brinicombe, of the Playgoers, said: "It's really exciting to have our opening play after the work.

"We're happy to be back in our own theatre.

"It's been very nice to be at Moorclose and everyone made us very welcome, but it's good to be home.

"A lot of hard work has gone into getting the theatre ready and we're really looking forward to the playgoers' first show."

Richard Everett's play is set in the English country of a vicarage where the vicar's wife, Grace, has



ENTERTAINING ANGELS: Performing at the Theatre Royal are, standing, Frank Cosgrove as Bardolph and Grace Walker as Grace with, sitting, from left, Imogen Barnfather as Sarah, Joan Hetherington as Ruth and Anne Bowmer as Jo

spent a life time in the shadow of her husband Bardolph.

Following the death of her hus-

band she has to move and starts enjoying the new-found freedom, until she meets the new vicar

Her daughter Jo comes to help her move out and, coupled with the return of her missionary sister

Ruth, Grace finds that she is suddenly confronted by her emotional ties with her sister and, worse, her own guilt over her husband's death.

Mrs Brinicombe said: "Richard Everett cleverly explores the emotions using some sharp-edged comedy and probing wit but at the same time exposes the human frailty."

The show is directed by Brian Young. The cast includes Grace Walker as Grace, Joan Hetherington as Ruth, Anne Bowmer as Jo, Imogen Barnfather as Sarah and Frank Cosgrove as Bardolph.

Joan Hetherington is debuting as a member of the company, having previously performed with Cockermouth Amateur Dramatic Society

Imogen Barnfather is also performing with the group for the first time.

Thanks to a successful bid to the Big Lottery Fund, Workington Playgoers were able to double the size of the foyer install a new bar improve disabled access to the theatre and create new community space.

Shows start at 7.30pm daily Tickets cost £10, concessions £9, and can be purchased by ringing the Carnegie Theatre box office on 01900 602122.