

Beaufort Players Blithe Spirit

THE Beaufort Players made an ambitious choice in putting on Noel Coward's farce *Blithe Spirit* recently. Running for well over two and a half hours it was a demanding work to perform and the pace and confidence of the production were maintained largely through the efforts of Daphne Drossi, who was superb as Elvira, the spirit of Charles Condomine's late wife brought back to him at a seance.

Thelma Maidment was well cast as the enthusiastic medium Madame Arcati and flung herself into trances with the relish of a boarding school headmistress goading on the girls hockey team. But with a part purpose built for over the top acting she could well have afforded to lose herself in the character even more than she did.

Enticing

Daphne Drossi's enticing performance seemed relaxed and effortless as she wafted her way round the set, visible only to Charles and treating his unnerved new wife with humorous disdain. Her manner was always delightfully petulant and brought out the full comic effect of Charles' act of "astral bigamy".

Michael Davis had a basic composure that suited the character of Charles well, but unexpected events seemed to wash over him too easily for credibility — even in a farce.

Penny Etherington, as his wife, seemed to possess a far greater range of human emotion, although problems over remembering her lines brought her character to a rather abrupt halt on a couple of occasions on the first night.

Jean Kirby (as the Condomine's maid Edith), Roger Dishley and Elaine O'Sullivan all played their supporting roles adequately.

DAVID GORDON

ABC12

Clint Eastwood in

EVERY WHICH WAY BUT

LOOSE (aa)

Sun. 5.50 8.35 Week 3.00 5.40 8.25

DON'T CALL IT FRISCO (a)

Sun. 5.15 8.00 Week 2.30 5.05 7.50

*Children's Film Show S