

FOR ADULTS ONLY!

WITH less than a week to go to opening night of the Irish premiere of "The Poker Session," by Hugh Leonard, the Waterford Dramatic Society are hard at work, under the direction of their producer, Bill Skinner, putting the finishing touches to what promises to be a most exciting production.

Following its world premiere at the Dublin Theatre Festival in the autumn of 1963, where it proved to be the highlight, this play went on to a successful run in London's West End in the spring of this year. It has since had one amateur production in England, and one in Scotland, but is not yet generally available to amateurs. It is a compliment to Waterford audiences, and indeed to the W.D.S., that the author has agreed to its production here before it was staged elsewhere in Ireland.

Irish playwrights like O'Casey and Behan have always been noted for the colourful directness of their writing. Hugh Leonard is a worthy heir to this great tradition. He has a stimulating approach to his subject which, I feel, will be something new to Waterford play-goers. It is modern in every way vigorous, frank and outspoken—in short, an adult play.

Remember the production dates

—Thursday, 12th, to Sunday, 15th November at the Theatre Royal. Booking has already commenced at Waterford Books Ltd., and I strongly advise readers to book their seats without delay. This play will be discussed widely, so make sure you can join in with first-hand knowledge by having seen it.

In trying to bring their work to the widest possible audience, the W.D.S. has issued special invitations to people from selected areas for the opening night. I hope those invited have applied for their tickets in time. It would be a pity to miss this play, which is as fine an introduction to the work of our present-day playwrights as one could hope to find.

Incidentally, I hear that among the audience on opening night we may have some visitors from Dublin whose names are household words in the world of Irish Theatre.