

Theatr Taliesin Wales's Tree of Life at St Donats

Greening in earnest

By IFAN PAYNE

THEATRE-GOING in Cardiff can be such a rich experience these days. A short while ago it was the Cafe Vienna within a church and now, once more, the setting for *Tree Of Life* is superb — outdoors at St Donats, under the trees in the lee of the church.

Here, to the gossamer tones of crwth and sandoor, Theatr Taliesin Wales enact an experience that is danced, sung and spoken as well as played.

Part Isadora Duncan, part *Golden Bough*, part polemic and part just a good idea amongst friends, there is always the danger in such work, as the dancers weave amongst the palm trees, of the ordinary being made to appear significant because of the earnestness which somehow borders on whimsical.

But Theatr Taliesin Wales, which last

year presented the unforgettable *Trystan and Essyllt*, has again created a tri-racial — Welsh, Indian, English — and trilingual production in which the fusion of cultural styles is again essential to the charm of the performance.

Also, for me, the production rises above the merely decorative by its climax when amidst the mirth of a humorous auction the audience is suddenly faced with the issue of how much each of us would pay to save our natural environment and, thus, our own humanity.

Tree Of Life is an interesting evening's entertainment and can be seen at St Donats until Sunday, July 26.