

Our Day Out, Sherman Theatre

Seamless laughter

By IFAN PAYNE

"It is a good laugh," he said. "And short."

Well, with a recommendation like that how could a play fail?

And indeed, as performed by the Sherman Theatre Company Willy Russell's *Our Day Out* is funny and the production is fast moving and well paced.

The play recounts the day in the life of a school field trip by Mrs Kay's Progress Class and it charts the course of this under-privileged group of children's attempts to

grapple with teachers, their classmates and the big wide world during a bus trip to the seaside.

Mike James's production makes excellent, fluid use of the Arena's small, but open space and Tim Mitchell's lighting and Simon Banham's economic set and props enhance the seamless sequence of short scenes.

The large cast of children are a joy with a number of striking indi-

vidual star turns.

Amongst the adults Lesley Rooney, as Mrs Kay, is a delight — believable and moving — as the school teacher who really cares about her children.

Moving, because like all good comedies the surface of *Our Day Out* may be very funny indeed, but the substance underneath is filled with insight and thought-provoking observations on the nature of the relationship between our society and education.

Our Day Out continues at the Sherman Theatre until May 2.

REVIEWS