

Boys sail through 'The Tempest' at Wellingborough

SINCE 1941 Wellingborough Grammar School Dramatic Society has presented a varied and contrasting selection of plays, but this year's is perhaps the most ambitious yet, considering the stage limitations.

William Shakespeare's drama "The Tempest" — generally regarded as his last work requires a big cast, and consequently plenty of stage space. Yet in their first performance yesterday afternoon the production team, by using some excellent sound effects and simple but persuasively realistic scenery, more than made up for the lack of space on the school hall stage.

For a first performance the whole cast must be credited for remembering its lines and stage positions remarkably well.

The plot, always edged with

a romantic flavour, is one of simple reconciliation — where a wrong is righted through repentance. It has the stamp of maturity which automatically marks it as one of Shakespeare's later works.

Act one, scene one, immediately called for a large stage, as it shows a crew battling to save their ship in a tempest. It was here that the effects came right into their own, to help the actors, a task which would otherwise have been extremely difficult.

FERDINAND (M. I. Palmer) stands at the cell entrance as Prospero, the rightful Duke of Milan (C. J. Norman) protects his daughter Miranda (J. B. Stranger) in a scene from Wellingborough Grammar School Dramatic Society's presentation of "The Tempest," at the School Hall. On the extreme right is Ariel (M. L. Abrahams).

THE CAST

From this crescendo of action the scene switched to a small island, where the rest of the play takes place.

On it Prospero, the rightful Duke of Milan (C. J. Norman) and Miranda, his daughter (J. B. Stranger) live under the rule of Antonio (R. F. Gardiner) the usurping Duke.

The rest of the cast: Alonso, King of Naples (D. C. Edwards); Ferdinand, his son (N. I. Palmer); Sebastian, King's brother (R. Buckley); Gonzalo (M. N. Eakins); Adrian and Francisco (W. R. Orton and T. L. M. Watson); Stephano (K. Lewis); Trinculo (A. Randall); ship's master (B. K. Tanner); boatswain (D. R. Ball); mariners (M. W. Charlton, G. H. Gibbs, R. D. Walden); Ariel (M. L. Abrahams); Caliban (N. S. F. Wills); Juno, Ceres and Iris (J. T. Joyce, T. A. L. Lawson, D. Olney); their attendants (K. Barley, R. T. Denny, B. Liddington, M. J. Stroud); Shapes and hounds (D. P. Abbott, S. G. Bird, R. H. Cole, R. W. Dalby, P. R. L. Jones, P. Mackness, P. A. Manton, G. K. Ostewell). Producer, R. J. Shaw.

The play runs until Friday.