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[ABC Local Television Programmes publicity file] Drama: Vacancy at Vaughan Street [Drama. Item contains photographs and correspondence relating to the programme] [Box 51]

TV WEEK - JULY 6, 1963.

# ★ PETRIE BITE...

OUR first drama with local artists on television, **Vacancy in Vaughn Street**, was a worthy effort and a triumph for all concerned.

The plot of this ABQ2 production was thin, and took some time to develop, but that wasn't the fault of the actors, producer or director.

Don McTaggart, in the lead role of Ernie Pettifer, walked off with the acting honors, but his supporting cast was a fine one.

Full credit for the success of this romantic half-hour goes to the four men whose names appeared at the end of the play: Director Wilf Buckler, who called his shots perfectly; producer Bob Cubbage; technical producer Fred Haynes; and a special award to Bernard Hides for his set design.

It makes you wonder why we have had to wait almost four years for this type of programme to emanate from our local studios.

This Queensland production is to be seen interstate, and our local team need hold no fears for its success.

We've shown we have the talent here, both behind and in front of the cameras.

Now I'd like to see the same combination in action with something meatier than **Vacancy in Vaughn Street**.

★ ★ ★



ABQ'S FIRST ALL-LOCAL T.V. PLAY PRODUCTION

Wed July  
31  
8.30p

Brisbane's first ~~all~~-local T.V. play production was telecast by ABC Television, ABQ Channel 2 on Tuesday, June, 25 at 8.30 p.m.

The half hour play featuring a cast of Brisbane actors and actresses is titled 'Vacancy in Vaughn Street' and is the first TV play by Sydney writer, John Crane, author of <sup>several</sup> a number of radio plays. He wrote the ~~recent~~ successful Sydney musical comedy 'Flaming Youth', is at present working on a novel, and in the future <sup>hope</sup> plans to write ~~more~~ further for television. He works with a Sydney advertising agency.

The production will go on syndication to ABC television in all States, where it will be shown on videotape. [The play is a domestic drama set in a boarding house and has a "boy meets girl" theme.

Ernie Pettifer, (played by Donald McTaggart), is a new arrival at the guest house run by Mrs. Jessop (Gwen Wheeler) and Arthur Jessop (Toby Harris). Something of a "rough diamond", Ernie meets ~~there~~ <sup>an</sup> the intellectual, ~~and~~ strait-laced school teacher, Florence Medway (played by Judith Stephenson), and the play follows the stormy developments in their romance.

Betty Ross plays the other member of the guest hour, the flighty Violet Anderson, <sup>appears as</sup> another boarder.

The cast are all experienced Brisbane radio and little theatre actors and actresses.

The cast, producer, director and crew, began rehearsing and preparing the play for television some months before the final performance.

<sup>"Vacancy is best"</sup>  
"The play has a simple plot and was chosen as a TV exercise for local actors and producers", explains Bob Cabbage, <sup>ABC</sup> Supervisor of Drama and Features in Queensland, who produced the play to the camera rehearsal stage. <sup>when</sup> Director Wilf Buckler took over, ~~the~~ production from that point.

"We hope that this will be the first of a series of local TV play productions in Brisbane", said Mr. Cabbage. "Sometime in the future it is possible that the ABC will hold drama auditions for actors and actresses from which could come a nucleus of TV actors for future productions".

The play, ~~has three~~ sets, <sup>were designed by Bernard Hyde</sup> all planned on the conventional and T.R. wa



conception of guest-house decor-flowered wall paper and  
semi-antique furniture. The main action takes place in the the  
lounge and dining-room. The designer of the sets is Bernard Hides;  
technical producer is Fred Haynes.

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ABC PUBLICITY DEPT.

BRISBANE

10.7.63







PROGRAMME TITLE: VACANCY IN VAUGHN ST.

DESCRIPTION: Ernie confesses to Mr. Jessop that his romance with Florence is not progressing smoothly.

PICTURE SHOWS: DON McTAGGART (ERNIE) TOBY HARRIS (MR. JESSOP)

TRANSMISSION DATE: BRISBANE - 25.6.63.

BALMAIN

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*NO. 10*

MISSION DATE: BELLEVILLE - 52-6

SHOWS: THE MOUNTAIN

LOCATION: ...

NAME TITLE: ...

