

BLOOD BROTHERS

In spite of sitting in an extremely cramped front row, with no leg room, we soon forgot our discomfort as we became absorbed by the emotion and passion shown by all the cast.

Set in a poor area of Liverpool, the show opens with Mrs. Johnstone, who already has several children, having to give away one of her newly born twins, to her employer, Mrs. Lyons. Inevitably as he grows up, Mickey bumps into Eddie, his twin brother, with neither knowing the truth of their relationship, and they become best friends, or blood brothers. This drives their mothers to distraction, a situation which is only broken when poverty stricken Mrs. Johnstone and her family are moved to a new terraced house in "Skem" on the outskirts of Liverpool.

All is well until the Lyons family move to a new house not far from where the Johnstones live. The twins soon meet and resume their friendship. Eventually Edward leaves to go to university, Mickey and Linda, his pregnant girl friend, get married but then Mickey loses his job at the factory and, pushed by his older brother, Sammy, turns to a life of crime. He gets caught, spends time in prison and then returns home suffering from depression and is dependent on drugs. He falls out with Linda, who then turns to Eddie, who is home for Christmas, for comfort. Mickey grabs a gun and goes looking for Eddey. He finds him and despite being told that the two of them are twins, eventually shoots him, just as he himself is shot by the police. The two gunshots, in quick succession, made us all jump.

This was an amazing performance, well acted and well sung. It fully deserved the standing ovation and four curtain calls.

Hugh & Jean Carter