

NEAREST TO A VIRTUOSO PIECE

"Message for Margaret" at the Albert Hall last night was probably the nearest thing to a virtuoso piece the Brisbane amateur theater can give.

The play called for only four characters, and the Brisbane Repertory Theatre cast them with four of its most capable and experienced actors.

Babette Stephens, Gwen Wheeler, Mervyn Eadie, and John Barker could be relied upon to be good, and were good.

Author James Parish has mixed his four characters up in a Bloomsbury flat, served them up with an unsafe balcony, a telephone, a drinks tray, and shadowed them with the memory of a dead man—a sort of male Rebecca.

Babette Stephens is the "ordinary" logical woman who has unsuspected depths of desperation.

Producer Alex Foster could be proud that his polish stayed bright —
ROGER COVELL.