



Nairobi City Players in "Stepping Out". They are (left to right) Ruth Sherwin, Eleanor Stevens, Maria Cunningham, Anne Cohen and Ian Barton.

Nairobi City Players 'step out'

By EVA NDAVU

Dance therapy and old age are the themes in *Stepping Out* and *On Golden Pond* currently showing at the Kenya National Theatre and the Phoenix Theatre.

Nairobi City Players are offering something different in the form of musical entertainment in their current production of *Stepping Out* at the National Theatre this week. This is not a musical in the usual sense as there are no songs sung. It is not a comedy. It is more a story about an amateur tap dance class in which eight adults come together to learn and practise a new skill.

Guest star Jenny Logan plays Mavis, the tap-dance teacher. She is very much the director as well as the teacher who guides the students to self-confidence

and achievement. Wendy Penrose assists as Mrs Fraser, the somewhat temperamental pianist.

The nine scenes develop from the group's first few introductory lessons on to their rigorous rehearsals for a charity show. Just as each person has an individual motive for joining the dance class, each learns something different in the process.

This show offers lots of lovely legs, a fast pace and some sensitive character, as well as bodies in all shapes and sizes.

Anne Cohen plays a nursing sister who seems to enjoy a different type of leg work than running up and down hospital corridors.

Maria Cunningham, a very accomplished dancer, gives a good

rendition of a clumsy beginner. Lesley-Anne McGuinness is the hard-core Maxine who dislikes men and children.

Eleanor Stevens plays the shy, inhibited Andy (long for Ann). Jane Bailey is Sylvia, who takes dance as an alternative to a get-trim class, and Asheline Mwakitia is the minority pet.

Ruth Sherwin nearly steals the show as the conceited and fastidious Vera, who loves to look at her own image in the mirror. Ian Barton is Geoffrey, the only male in the dance class. Gerry Tebbutt directs and choreographs.

Phoenix Players' *On Golden Pond* is much more real than the film version and offers excellent performances by James Ward and Debonnaire Falkland.