

ARTS COME OUT



AT EASE:
From left,
Amanda
Barton,
Narelle
Howard,
Alysha
Herrmann,
Teresa
Arnold,
Marisa
Mastrocola
and Nat
Dickerson.

Picture:
TAIT
SCHMAAL

A special offering

Random Girls

Waterside Theatre, until today

WHAT an astonishing piece of theatre. The *Random Girls* are not actors, they are themselves, flung into a theatrical context. They are Riverland young mothers, in many cases accidental mothers, who have lived with the clichés and categorisation of the community, and now can tell the tale.

Motherhood is not easy at any age and nor are relationships with men. The bond between mothers and their young is extraordinary and there is a positive side to everything.

The women, with honesty, simplicity and a lot of very good direction, reveal cameo scenes of their lives and impart some of their secrets for coping. The production, a light and darkness upon the common ground of female experience, is visually

diverting as well as informative – some may say didactic, but in the nicest possible way.

It is all very frank, sometimes a little confrontingly so. They are an unusual and interesting group of women, although they are, in fact, just an offering of a large culture of young motherhood. It gives one hope for the country to see how likeable is this cross-section. All is not lost.

And the women's generosity in sharing their knowledge with the upcoming young is laudable. Their performances are immensely enhanced by the sheer class and professionalism of the Vitalstatistix team – designer Cath Cantlon, lighting Sue Grey-Gardner, sound Heather Frahn, and video Sophie Hyde and Bryan Mason, with, of course, co-directors Vitals' Maude Davey and Riverland's Lucien Simon.

Random Girls is a very special show.

Samela Harris