

shuttling between Jamaica and London, buying a few months of freedom, sometimes ending up in jail, never meeting the 'top people', dreaming of a new life. Pinnock is always good on exiles in transit, the pull of the homeland.

Her urgent, enjoyable, sharply moral play, co-presented by the prison-touring company Clean Break, is brilliantly performed by Sheila Whitfield, Abi Eniola and Clare Perkins as a mind-boggling collection of dossers, bad girls, political refugees, underwear saleswomen, agricultural workers and vicious vixens.

Dennis Potter's reputation is a mystery to me. His television plays never stand up well in the theatre; **Blue Remembered Hills** (1979), with seven seven-year-olds played

by adults including the cherishable Steve Coogan, plumpish Gerard Horan, brilliant Debra Gillett and amazing (though not here) Geraldine Somerville, is no exception.

Potter's *Forest of Dean* is skittishly realised by designer Richard Hudson with plastic sheep and cows and a dramatically sloping greensward. Patrick Marber directs a dumb schedule-filler whose 90 minutes seem stretched to eternity. It is much better than *Karaoke*, but what isn't?

*By Jeeves Stephen Joseph, Scarborough (01723 370541); Divine Right Birmingham Rep (0121-212 3333); Mules Theatre Upstairs, London SW1 (0171-730 2554); Blue Remembered Hills RNT Lyttelton, London SE1 (0171-928 2252)*

## Coveney on Hills

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