

MIRROR 10/9/54 Brutal theme in play by O'Neill

Eugene O'Neill's brutal play of the underdog, "The Hairy Ape," was revived by the Lincoln Company last night at the Metropolitan Theatre.

It is a difficult play, but producer Allan Sisson handled it imaginatively.

A brave attempt was made to bring out the savagery of this story of a great "ape" of a stoker driven to rage and despair when it is borne in on him that he is living on a brute level of existence.

Weakness of the production was the poor casting of the women, particular-

ly the millionaire's daughter who throws the stoker off balance with her horror of his animal role.

Tragedy

John Bunt as "Yank," the brutish stoker, carried the play. His spasms of blind rage had a roaring vitality, his grunting ecstasies in praise of his job had a crude poetry and there was real tragedy in the finale when he breaks into a zoo cage, embraces a gorilla as a "brother" and is crushed to death.

Good sets by George Clarke and engine-room sound effects recorded on a local ferry added to the realism.—F.H.H.