

All highly original

1985

The King and I — Civic Theatre

IN CAODS successful King and I, Ray Jeffery proved to everyone that he is just as talented on stage as he is in the director's chair.

His performance as the King of Siam brought out the humour of the part in a highly original way. But this was by no means the only performance of merit — Angela Broad moved expressively as Anna Leonowens "a difficult woman," and Gill Plumtree brought an energetic oriental dignity to the role of Lady Thiang, the King's number one wife.

The young lovers were enchantingly played, and sung, by Patrick Tucker and Dawn Sampson, beautifully made up as Princess Tuptim. The costumes were a visual treat

too, the smallest child seemed as sumptuously dressed as the Amazons.

Andrew Ross gave an excellent performance as the Crown Prince — regal, proud, "very like his father."

Reliable cameos from Leo McGiff, as Captain Orton, and Peter Smith as Sir Edward, a visitor from Anna's past.

This show is short on the sort of song and dance number that have largely made the reputation of the CAODS/Jeffery partnership, but there was some good chorus work — the heavily accented Getting to Know You, for example — and the Ballet, which so often weighs down the second act, was done with charming authenticity.

Musical director was Judy Adams. Eric Ashley