

WEDGE, Number i, Summer 1977. PDC, i, Ochendon Road, Islington, N.1 pp. 56. 75p.

Articles in the first issue of *WEDGE* deal with the economics of British political theatre, 'free radio' in Italy, the production of films and journalism closely linked to factory struggles in France, the contradictory commercial role of pop record charts, the relation between domestic architecture and the 'place' of women since the 14th century. Somewhat more predictable pieces include Raymond Williams on mass media, Dave Laing on Brecht's poems, and a 'news and notes' section with comments on MFS, FACT. CARM, TOM and TOC—and those who don't already know that these initials stand respectively for Music For Socialism, Fight Against Theatre Cuts, Campaign Against Racialism in the Media, Troops Out Movement and The Other Cinema, should particularly considering buying *Wedge* (and PDC, incidentally, stands for Publications Distributions Co-op, 27 Clerkenwell Close, EC1). For the intention of the journal is to try to bring together

'cultural practice' and 'cultural theory' within a revolutionary alignment. The theoretical debate about 'culture', or more narrowly 'literature', on the Left in Britain has often been conducted without much visible contact with producers of current alternatives or activists within practical struggles on the 'cultural front'. *Wedge's* critique of the academicism of the CP's *Red Letters* is worth considering here, while their own honestly searching and uncertain collective editorial indicates an openness to problems and perspectives beyond the reach of some sectarian interventions in this area. That collective uncertainty has, of course, its disadvantages as well, an obvious one being the apparent lack of any clear idea of the intended readership. But almost anyone who has faced the problem of relating radical theory to effective practice might gain from seeking out a copy.

B. S.

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