No plastic for Splinters

SPLINTERS theatrical group threw an *al fresco* party at the Yarralumla Brickworks last week, to celebrate the company's 10th birthday. They struck it lucky with a day of brilliant sunshine.

Renowned for their off-the-wall and in-your-face productions, the Splinters people continued their arcane antics during the party. The paspalum-bordered courtyard at the Brickworks looked like a *Mad Max* set, and the colourful costumes of the players created rainbows around the dour brick walls. Woven gold breastplates and cockaded helmets, backdrops of flying pennants of red silk, and the compelling drumbeats accompanying the dancer made it all a bit different from the customary plastic parties on the theatre scene.

Two young dancers, fluffy with chook feathers (they looked like twin Plucka Ducks), pranced in the sun while David Branson made his introductory speech, and Peter Haynes (director of the Nolan Gallery) told of the ten turbulent and creative years. Shows such as *A Gumboot full of Blood, Massive Love and Risk, The Fertile Millenia*, and *The Village of Captive Souls* have been Splinters' trademark since their first effort, *This Fantastic Lake*, in 1985. For 1995 their epic will be *Utopia/Distopia*, on Springbank Island in October.

People at the opening included Bill Wood, Kate Denborough, Jane Mussared, Malcolm Leech, Pat Harry, Peter Wilson, Nancy Sever, Mark Ferguson and Judy Waters. — NORMA ALLEN