

IRISH WORK

James moving into a bedsit

Brady, a middle-aged Ulsterman, sits in his dingy bedsit contemplating a bloodsport painting which dominates the wall. Clutching his Bible he reflects on his shadowy past. It is not long before Dempster, his new lodger, and Anton arrive. What they want with Brady becomes increasingly clear as the tension in this brutal play mounts.

The Bedsit is a short, sharp, surreal drama which explores the terror of being the hunter and the hunted.

A native of Belfast, James Ellis (Brady), is the son of a sheet metal worker who toiled in the Belfast shipyards. He was educated at Queens University where his interest in theatre first began. He attended the Old Vic in Bristol and then toured extensively in repertory theatre. By the age of twenty-six, James was running his own repertory company and later became the Artistic Director of the Ulster Civic Theatre.

From January 1962 until 1978 he became a household name playing Bert Lynch in the highly successful *Z Cars*. Since then he has rarely been



BEDSIT LAND...James Ellis, returning from Europe to take up the part of Brady in this powerful play

absent from the stage and screen, appearing in ongoing roles in *One By One*, *The Marksman* and *Billy*. He was last seen on screen in the award winning *Priest*.

It is a tribute to the calibre of *The Bedsit* that

James Ellis is rushing from location in central Europe to play the leading role in this production.

Other members of the cast are Cliff Hylands and Andrew MacLean and the singers are Polly Bowes and Phillip Hoffman.

Author of *The Bedsit*, twenty-six year old Paul Sellar is tipped to be a major playwright.

He is currently under commission from the National Theatre and is writing a trilogy for the Mermaid. His previous

two plays, *Epping Forest* and *The Fall* were critically acclaimed.

The Bedsit will be running at The Tarbard Theatre, 2 Bath Rd, Chiswick, London W4 from 5th-23rd November 1996.