



Shout! Alexandra Theatre

[May 9 2008](#) By [Alison Dayani](#)

THIS was a nostalgic and fun step back to the swinging Sixties that had the audience practically dancing in the aisles.

Shout! ended up perfectly towing the line between cheesy and kitsch, so that it resulted in being as bright as some of the mini dresses on stage.

Su Pollard played it as dippy as Peggy from Hide-Hi! and even startled the audience with some singing ability.

But the real beltors were left to the impressive cast including former Brookside babe Claire Sweeney.

The musical was cleverly centred around four women in the 1960s, dotted with tongue-in-cheek adverts about everything from getting tea on the table for your husband using tinned food to the launch of the pill and the first package holidays to Spain.

But the music secured its success, packed with Top Of The Pops classics including To Sir With Love, Downtown, Let's Twist Again and of course Shout!

Shout! continues until Saturday.



news that matters, campaigns that count

for Birmingham, the Black Country and beyond

SHOUT (Alexandra Theatre, until Saturday)

07-05-2008



Dubbed “the ultimate '60s feelgood musical” and starring former Brookie star Clare Sweeney, Shout is in town this week. Theresa and Joe Millington deliver the verdict.

Go Downtown to The Alexandra Theatre Birmingham and enjoy a veritable musical feast of what the swinging sixties had to offer.

This show stars Claire Sweeney as Ruby and Su Pollard as Yvonne., both offer fantastic performances of high quality in this wonderful musical.

The show takes us through the sixties through the eyes of three young women and their trials and tribulations along the way.

The decade is punctuated by articles in a women’s magazine “Shout” covering many issues including the contraceptive pill, fashion, music, England’s World Cup win and the first man on the moon; these contributions were made by the Magazine’s Tony T, played by Howard Jones who delivered his narrations with great humour and a great many change of costumes.

We even get to see the man in black who delivers the chocolates to his beloved in dangerous circumstances.

Claire Sweeney plays Ruby a good-time girl ready to enjoy the high life in London. She clearly loves this role and exuded sparkle and radiance.

Su Pollard plays Yvonne or Vonnie as the girls fondly call her - she is the comic agony aunt. She plays the part with great ease and delivers her humour

beautifully, to the delight of the audience.

Both Claire and Su share the singing with Shona White, Donna Steele, Louisa Maxwell and Julie Stark.

The musical is full of all the favourites of the sixties and feet were tapping and hands clapping throughout culminating in a glamorous finale where the majority of the audience took to their feet and joined with great enthusiasm and passion.

As the audience scattered their way out from the Alexandra in various directions into the city one could hear various strains of "Downtown.....". The sign of a great night out !

Shout runs until Saturday 10 May. Tickets from www.alexandratheatre.org.uk or via Ticketmaster 0844 847 2294

HAVE YOU SEEN SHOUT? LEAVE A COMMENT ON THE STIRRER FORUM.