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South Wales Echo 27

REVIEW



Shout!

New Theatre, Cardiff
Rating: ★★★★★

IT'S been a long time since I hitched up my miniskirt and polished my kinky boots but last night I was back in the swinging '60s.

Shout! is the must-have mag of the '60s and the audience took a trip through the eyes of readers Ruby (Claire Sweeney) and her flatmates as their lives hurtle through the decade, narrated by the editor of the magazine (Howard Jones).

Year by year the magazine took us from the pill to World Cup victory, men landing on the moon, and exotic foreign holidays in Torremolinos.

The audience loved it when it went

dark, searchlights came on and the oh-so familiar theme tune played, then the Milk Tray man presented a box of chocolates to a lady in the stalls.

From start to finish it was electric, the cast of just seven carried the show at full pelt with amazing voices that did justice to the 30-odd golden oldies they belted out one after another weaved into the storyline.

The costumes were spot-on (I can't believe we actually wore skirts that short) and the brilliant choreography was so authentic I couldn't stop smiling, groovy man.

By the finale the full house was standing, clapping and singing along.

If you were there in the '60s don't miss it. If you weren't - go and see what you missed.

As Lulu would say, it was "alllll right!"

Ros Curtis

Your view

Were you there?

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Text **07781 482332**

"That's me when I was 16. It's wonderful."

Elaine Davies, Llantarnam

"It's a fantastic show. I've been admiring the man, he's good on the eye."

Claire Jenkins, Rogerstone

"I was expecting more dancers in the cast but I thoroughly enjoyed the show."

Carolyn Holland, Rogerstone

"What's it doing in Cardiff? It should be in the West End. It was fab."

Norman Curtis, Cardiff

GAVIN'S TOP TIPS three things you mustn't miss tonight

□ **JUAN MARTIN**

St David's Hall, Cardiff
Tel: 029 2087 8444

WHEN it comes to flamenco guitar, Martin is the man. His book *El Arte Flamenco de la Guitarra* is the bible of flamenco guitar. Tickets: £12.

□ **CANDO CO**

The Riverfront Theatre, Newport
Tel: 01633 656757

THE dance company perform 'country death songs', including music from the likes of Scott Walker. Tickets: £5-£12.50.

□ **THIS CITY**

Barfly, Cardiff
Tel: 0844 847 2424

THIS Brighton five-piece disco-punk band sound like The Automatic playing Bloc Party covers. Tickets: £5.

Shout! New Theatre

By [*Jackie Davies*](#)

If the first night audience's reaction is anything to go by, Shout! currently showing at Cardiff's New Theatre is a resounding success.

This high-energy musical reminder of the swinging sixties, whilst admittedly, weak on plot, nevertheless provides an amusing, nostalgic and hugely entertaining journey through a decade of enormous change.

We follow the adventures of three young northern girls who travel to London in search of fame, love and fun.

Their story is told through 32 songs from the decade along with memories of hippies, the man on the moon, love-ins, changing fashions, the football world cup, first package holidays, fast-food, tv adverts, the twist, Top of the Pops, the contraceptive pill and Carnaby Street.

A strong cast led by the talented Claire Sweeney make light of some huge musical numbers.

There are a few show-stoppers, Shona White as Betty, stirs emotions with I Don't Know What To Do With Myself and All I See is You, inter-weaving perfectly with the magnificent Louise Plowright's more subtle and mature You're My World whilst Donna Steele (Georgina) makes To Sir With Love and You Don't Have To Say You Love Me memorable.

Most of the comedy comes from Howard Jones, the single man on stage, who, not to be out-done takes a fairshare in the vocals too.

The audience need no invitation to join in the finale, and with egos firmly aside the cast are more than happy to let songs such as Downtown, It's Not Unusual, Son of a Preacher Man and of course the obligatory Shout be the real stars of the show.

The production runs until Saturday