

Scream Baby!

'Shout! The Mod Musical' promises nothing but laughter and good times, with or without the Devil's weed

By: [Laura Graham](#)

Stepping into Theatre 4301 last weekend was like taking a trip back in time to London's groovy, 1960s mod scene, where love, sex, drugs and music were as widely experimented with as vinyl and garish polyester fashions.

"Shout! The Mod Musical," explores the cultural changes of the '60s, from the point-of-view of five, very different, young women. It is almost like a musical episode of "Sex and the City."

The story begins by explaining the mod-rainbow, as the audience was introduced to the characters each dressed in their corresponding color. The green girl is super horny and generally sex-crazed. The orange girl is the sweet, always-wants-to-please type. The yellow girl is rude, loud and often speaks before she thinks. The blue girl is beautiful and she knows it. The red girl is the frumpy, hasn't-come-out-of-her-shell-yet type.

The story is centered around Shout, a popular magazine in London, read by hip, modern women. In the show, the five hilarious women acted out advertisements, advice letters and magazine quizzes that reflected the changing times.

Music was, of course, a huge influence on mod culture and this show featured some popular 1960s favorites. Songs included "To Sir with Love," "Downtown," "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me" and "Goldfinger." The well-loved song "Son of A Preacher Man," showcased Holly Burton's (Yellow Girl) impressive range, although the biggest vocal powerhouse in this show seemed to be Brooke Reams (Red Girl).

The small cast featured a handful of triple-threat actors, who sang, acted and danced with great skill. Blue Girl (Lauren Fijol) moved across the stage with grace and ease of a classically trained dancer. The dance numbers were lively, well choreographed and representative of that period.

To change scenes, the lights would periodically strobe and flash as the girls go-go danced around the set. Reams (Red Girl) was a crack-up, in a scene where she acted out an advertisement for the birth control pill, in pantomime, as the side effects were listed over

the loudspeaker. "May cause temporary blindness," the ad said as Reams groped around the stage.

"The Devil's Weed," was the opening line to a pee-your-pants funny scene in which the five women stood at the front of the stage, puffed the magic dragon (smoked joints) and laughed about the word "VAAAgina."

Fashion was a crucial part of mod culture, so the far-out styles like vinyl boots, mini-dresses, bobbed haircuts, bright colors and heavy eye makeup worn in the show were essential to setting the scene.

"Shout!" was the last song in the show, and several members of the audience clapped, busted out their jazz hands and sang along with the cast.

Shout! The Mod Musical, Theatre 4301, 4301 Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, 480.994.2787, through March 18, Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Friday, 8 p.m., Saturday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m., \$38