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Summer comes to Gainesville and with it come warnings of alphabetized hurricanes, mosquito rampages, 100-degrees heat indexes and lovebugs who do it on your windshield and - praise be! - a new musical by the Hippodrome State Theatre. Each summer, the Hipp comes up with a new show while audiences wonder if it possibly can be as good as the one that preceded it last summer.

Happily, the Hippodrome has done it again with a hugely entertaining production of the Phillip George and David Lowenstein revue, "Shout! A Mod Musical." Directed with the style of a true showman by Lauren Caldwell and featuring five super-talented actresses, Jennifer Anderson, Rachel Anton, Kelly Atkins, Mackenzie Curran and Lauren Hathaway, "Shout!" is a show that brings you up from a squelched, silent hum to a full-scale vocal roar. A jukebox musical true to its name, it features well-known songs of the '60s and '70s, songs like "I Only Want to Be with You," "To Sir With Love," "Son of a Preacher Man," "Those Were the Days" and "Downtown," to name a few.

Carlos Francisco Asse has designed a set for the show that can rival anything seen in the flower-child era of the '60s with multi-levels of lights and flowers, patterned floors and two revolving columns in which the actresses spin, sing and dance. Rachel Anton and Kelly Atkins choreographed the show with dances resembling the frug and the twist, performed with just a hint of tongue in cheek by the actresses. Marilyn A. Wall's costumes are a show in themselves, ranging from short, belted trenchcoats to svelte, shimmering dresses and outfits resembling England's Union Jack. Bryan Mercer, the show's musical director, has arranged songs that show off the skills of each actress, singly and in unison.

There is the somewhat distracting matter of the show's book to consider. Basically, it's a string of anecdotes relating to the magazine, "Shout!" which the women begin to read when they are naive young things in the '60s, and go on to reject in the '70s when they reach what passes for maturity in this show. They read advice from a starchy, ultra-conservative advice columnist whose answer to problems for the lovelorn and the abused alike, is to get a pedicure or a new hairdo. Interspersed with bad advice are jokey vignettes imitative of the stop-laugh-and move-on clips that made TV's "Laugh-In" so funny in '68. That technique tends to seem stale and hackneyed here, but, who cares? Any attempt to make serious conclusions about the evolution of women should go the way of the magazine's advice columnist who is fired. Forget the message! Enjoy the music!

There are many goodies staged by "Shout's" estimable actresses identified simply as Red Girl (Anderson), Green Girl (Anton), Blue Girl (Atkins), Yellow Girl (Curran) and Orange Girl (Hathaway). From the moment the show begins with all five actresses singing from underneath umbrellas imprinted with the Union Jack, they make the urge to

sing along almost irresistible. Hathaway's Orange Girl sings "I Only Want to Be with You." Anderson's Red Girl can melt your heart with her sweet, heartfelt "To Sir with Love." Anderson's Red Girl and Hathaway's Orange Girl sing a lively "Wishin' and Hopin.'" Atkins' Blue Girl sings "Don't Sleep in the Subway" followed by Curran's Yellow Girl belting a rousing "Son of a Preacher Man."

A hauntingly beautiful duet is sung in harmony to "You're My World" by Hathaway's Orange Girl and Atkins' Blue Girl. The entire color guard takes over the stage for "These Boots Were Made for Walking." For the best and most memorable performance of the evening, Anderson's Red Girl leads the women in a heady mixture of Slavic-style song and Rockettes-style dance moves for "Those Were the Days," with the audience clapping and singing along, verse after verse. Nor would "Shout!" be "Shout!" if the audience didn't raise its collective arms and shout along for that defining closing number.

Let's face it: The good old summertime wouldn't be good at all without the Hipp's jubilant new musical, "Shout!" It's pure entertainment, fun all the way through.