

REVIEWS**Shout!**✉ **CAROLINE CULOT**

11 March 2008

Norwich Theatre Royal

If the sight of Claire Sweeney bouncing around like a tangerine dream in a bright orange mini-dress does not cheer you up on a miserable Monday night, quite frankly nothing will! Bringing to the stage unashamed cheese, Sixties-style, Sweeney and her gang - including Su Pollard - took us on a whirlwind journey through the Sixties. It went through the decade from the introduction of the Pill to the World Cup in 1966 and finally to the first man on the moon in 1969. And all the way, goodtime girl Ruby (Sweeney) and pals Betty (Shona White), Georgina (Donna Steele) and old Auntie "Von" (Su Pollard) sang and danced their way through a selection of classics. Giving an advertising spin on it all was The Man (Howard Jones) who represented the voice of society himself - although slowly changing as women enjoyed a new- found liberation.

With its loose plot about the friends trying to find love in a changing world, it could have been just a bit of froth, but what made it more than that was the wonderful energy and enthusiasm of all the cast and a real sense of bonding between the female members.

Sweeney, we know, is a consummate performer and just gave her all last night, really nailing the song Alfie with a husky, controlled performance. White and Steele both had superb voices and sang at times with raw emotion. Pollard can really raise the roof with her powerful voice and we can't forget Jones who did a great impersonation of Michael Caine and didn't look too bad in tight swimming trunks later on!