

Groovy fun for the girls

'Shout! The Mod Musical'
is all about the tunes

The nostalgic tunes from London's swinging 1960s in "Shout! The Mod Musical" may make this show worthwhile for some.

But be forewarned.

Although the musical numbers in this revue — playing at Drury Lane Theatre at Water Tower Place in Chicago — are great, the vocalists fabulous and the three-piece band

'SHOUT! THE MOD MUSICAL'

When: Through June 22.

Where: Drury Lane Theatre at Water Tower Place, 175 E. Chestnut St., Chicago.

Tickets: \$45 to \$55.

Phone: (312) 902-1400.

Web: broadwayinchicago.com.

(Bradley Vieth, Margaret James and Rich Trelease) fantastic, there is little story here.

And the silly characters are dated.

Sporting mid-calf vinyl boots, mini-dresses and hairdos from the '60s, a group of five British girls, (Amanda Danskin, Lemont native Lauren Fijol, Megan Long, Danielle Plisz, Maggie Portman and Amy

Steele) try to incorporate their life problems with London's most popular mod hits.

We don't get to know much about these women as they are distinguished by the color of their dresses.

We have a blue girl, a red girl, a green girl, a yellow girl and an orange girl.

For instance, we learn the blue girl has no friends, the green girl is a slut and the yellow girl is driven by her emotions. Wow! That's how deep this show gets.

The characters are so negligible and the story so thin that there's little to grab on to if one wants some kind of a plot.

With plastic flowers festooning the background of the red-shag-carpeted stage, there is a cartoonish look to the show that lets you know there is nothing serious going on here.

The show offers ongoing comments from the girls, but "Shout!" is really all about the music, which is given a terrific spin by great vocalizations from the



Photo courtesy of Michael Brosilow

"Shout! The Mod Musical" features Amy Steele (from left), Megan Long, Danielle Plisz, Lemont native Lauren Fijol and Maggie Portman.

gaggle of girls and the accompanying band.

Aficionados of the bluesy British blend of hit songs that were all the rage in the '60s may find the selection of 30 pop hits from the period enough to make up for the show's lack of depth.

Indeed, women who lived through the age of Burt Bacharach and Petula Clark may get a big kick out of hearing songs such as "Downtown," "Don't Sleep in the Subway," "Son of a Preacher Man" and "These Boots Were Made for Walking."

Created by Phillip George and David Lowenstein, "Shout!" doesn't offer any deep insights on life or anything that will help women cope with their problems.

But the show may provide a groovy fun night out with the girls who want to hear the great beat of the '60s and revisit the good old days for laughs at

hairstyles, fashion and concerns that now seem so way-back-when.

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The touring production of "Shout! The Mod Musical" has Southland ties. The show features Lemont native Lauren Fijol.

