



Shout! The Musical:
Regent Theatre, Stoke
by Liz Rowley

If you fancy a night where you get the chance to Twist Again, Close Your Eyes And Count To Ten, Tell The Boys and become a Big Spender, then you could do no better than to head Downtown and spend a night at the Regent Theatre, Hanley, watching the brilliant new musical, SHOUT! which runs there until Saturday.

Starring Claire Sweeney, Su Pollard, Shona White and Donna Steele, this is one of those feel-good shows that leaves your troubles at the door. It's affectionate, funny, wonderfully put together and superbly presented.

In a nutshell, it's unmissable.

Like most musicals of this kind, it's the music that lies dominant to everything else, but it has to be said that SHOUT! has the whole package - and a little bit more on top.

Comprising three main girls and one man, the cast is exceptionally small but it's the familiar saying of 'quality not quantity' that keeps running through your mind as you watch it.

Heading the show last night were TV personalities Claire Sweeney, confident and edgy in her role as man-mad Ruby, and Su Pollard who impressed all as a Peckham hairdresser with a singing voice many didn't expect to hear.

But the contrasting characters, including the geeky Betty played by powerful Shona White, the aspiring showbiz star Georgina played by Donna Steele and Howard Jones's multi-talented 'Man' were reason enough to make the simple storyline of SHOUT! work really well - not to mention the costumes and set design of ex-Endon High School pupil, Morgan Large can take exceptional credit for.

SHOUT! is colourful and vibrant from start to finish with enough energy to keep you entertained throughout.

For those familiar with the era SHOUT! is an entertaining trip down memory lane, while for others it's a chance to take a look at a decade everyone seems to rave about.

Judging by the audience last night, those were certainly the days. Brilliant.