

`Shout!

A quintet of talented performers, all female, also graces the amusing ``Shout! The Mod Musical." It is either a revue with embryonic stories or a jukebox musical with minimal plot, but delightfully entertaining either way.

The songs are all hits of the swinging '60s. Of British origin, they were popularized by the likes of Petula Clark, Dusty Springfield, Shirley Bassey, Lulu and several others. Cleverly fitted into the show, they help tell the stories of five young London women during the mod decade.

The women all seek counsel from the advice columnist of Shout! magazine (the hilarious voice of Carole Shelley), and their stories are commented on by the editor (the crisp voice of Paxton Whitehead).

Colorful Characters

Ranging from demure to sluttish, the women are identified by their costume colors. Orange (Julie Dingman Evans) is the prettiest, Green (Erica Schroeder) the sexiest, Blue (Marie- France Arcillo) the sweetest, Yellow (Erin Crosby) the curviest and Red (Denise Summerford) the funniest.

The excellent three-piece band, led by Bradley Vieth, who also orchestrated and did some arranging, summons up plenty of din and vim. David Gallo's set aptly suggests living inside a giant, flowery jukebox, Philip Heckman's plentiful costumes keep getting delightfully daffier, and Jason Lyons's lighting offers some charming surprises.

The show was created by Phillip George and David Lowenstein, the former also choreographing, the latter also directing. The text, aptly labeled ``Mod Musings and Groovy Gab," is by George and Peter Charles Morris. And by George! it is funny.

``This is my Barclaycard," says Red Girl. ``It's the very first credit card in Britain. You charge and charge and charge and you never have to spend any money."

Though the creators hail from various American stages, ``Shout!" was a success in London before coming to off-off- Broadway in New York. Now off-Broadway, with an infusion of upscale spiffiness, it should easily prosper.

``Shout!" is at the Julia Miles Theater, 424 W. 55th St. For tickets, call (1)(212) 239-6200 or see <http://www.telecharge.com> .