

# BRIGHT NEW SHOW FOR THE PEOPLE

## SOUND OF THE SOUTH:

Joubert Park Theatre.

IF SOUTH AFRICA had more shows like "Sound of the South" there would be no need to import second rate overseas artists for the big road shows. It has an abundance of youthful talent, one of the finest composers of light music in the country, and above all it is one of the finest shows ever presented in Johannesburg.

It was a pleasure to watch these dedicated youngsters put everything they had in to a stimulating two hour show. Their conduct, grooming and professional approach puts many alleged entertainers to shame. They enjoy every number and what is most important, they play for the people.

The accent of the show is on youth, the hopes, the frustrations and the joy of living. Two of the group, pert Hamish Scott and bubbling Mollie Minnie carry the brunt of the songs. Hamish is a fine performer with an amazing voice range. He reminded me of the British folk singer Donovan. He excels with "Something Should Be Happening," "Children Know" and a swinging, "Up With The People." Mollie, although a wee bit hesitant wins through with the sheer pleasure of her numbers.

A particular feature of the group is their intricate harmony patterns and their familiarity with a wide variety of instruments. Danie Gerber, multi-instrumentalist and chief composer and arranger, is one of the finest musicians I have met. He sits in the background tinkling his piano and occasionally blowing his saxophone, yet his authority is stamped on every number. His Afrikaans numbers, particularly a piece he jocularly refers to as "Afrikaans Underground," are superb in composition and tempo. His dream of bringing a new concept into Afrikaans music should soon be realised.

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