

SHOW TIMES EXTRA

The old hippies gave 'JOS' a musical lift

f JOHN Oakley-Smith actually smiled.

He sat there, onstage with the Elastic Head Band to perform "Roots And Shoots" Upstairs at the Market in Johannesburg, giving the audience one big, loopy grin after another.

Now, John Oakley-Smith never smiles to show he's pleased or touched by audience response. He normally looks down, or studies the keys of his piano and gets straight into the next number . . . so something was up, definitely.

As plump Mac McCallum launched into a jolly song, and the normally tight-lipped Dave Marks started beaming out to the crowds over his bass

guitar, and Mike Dickman did a little on-the-spot jig and even Leonie Hofmeyr managed a crooked grin, the reasons for the gentle poet's conviviality became apparent.

Affected

These old hippies, specially dug up for the occasion, were having the time of their lives performing their own songs.

They were giving off such a vibe that no one in the audience could have failed to be affected.

Even when Leonie Hofmeyr showed everyone, in a diabolical number called "Cross The Bridge", that she admires Kate Bush and that even if she can't quite crack that style herself at least she tries, the Head Band looked thrilled to be onstage entertaining us.

Later, still smiling cutely, Leonie did a clockwork version of one of the best songs ever written in this country, Oakley Smith's "Lady From The Odeon" and everyone on stage continued to laugh.

Attacked

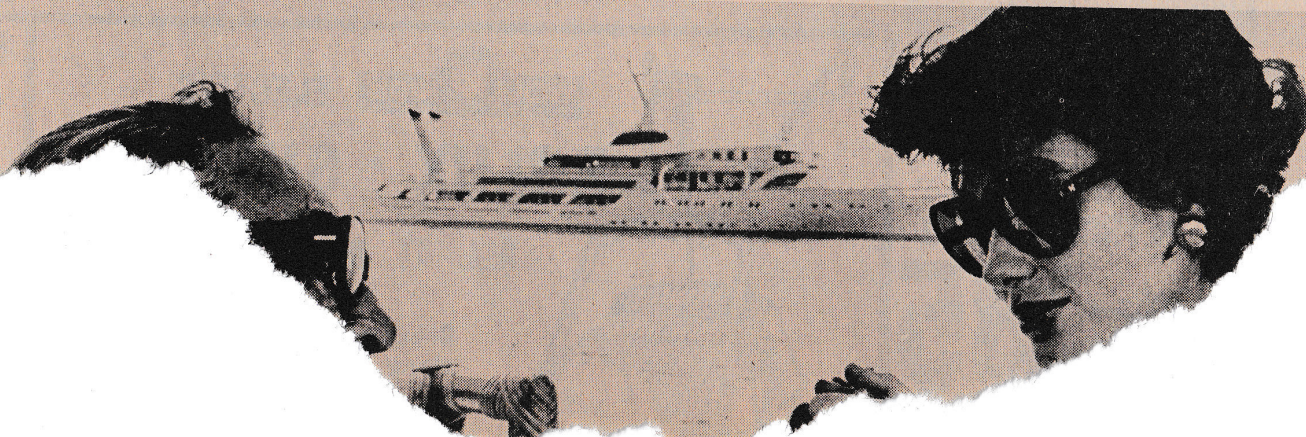
Record-producer Dave Marks writes good lyrics. His presentation could be more sophisticated — he

was the only one who seemed self-conscious when the time came for him to take the spotlight. Mac attacked both his guitar and vocals with the same joyful gusto, and Gikas Marks, on drums, never took the smile off his face from the start of the show to the end.

Mike Dickman played some interesting guitar and his songs, which though not particularly memorable, made pleasant enough listening.

But the star of the show is indisputably the romantic at the piano. Even if the idea of all the merriment doesn't appeal to you, John Oakley Smith will make an evening with the Head Band worthwhile.

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