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19th May 1981

6 SHOW MAIL

Great rock but satire is the pits

SAVED by rock 'n' roll!
THIS late-nighter (it starts at 11.00 pm) out of Roker Street derives nearly all its punch from the exciting music penned by Dave Marks, played by the excellent Medium Wave Band and sung with gusto by Assie O'Donnell, Graham Clarke, Charles Comyn.

This trio sweats to build up the energy quotient and, while it's a pity many of the lyrics got lost in the noise, their concentrated efforts pay off. Without it, the revue would have sunk like a stone.

The problem lies with a script as unappetising and lumpy as a plate of leftover porridge. The satire, when it does manage to surface, is thin and watery. The jokes, stuffed full of corn, are aimed at such tired, pockmarked targets as 'that electronic cuckoo up at Auckland Park', pseudo intellectual students and (yawn...) smoking dope.

Worst of all was an excruciatingly long dial-a-nostalgia telephone call sketch with such

ROCK REVUE
Rob Woodburn
Commit No Nuisance
The Chelsea

"classic" lines as "You promised me we would never grow old". This was really the pits!

On opening night, in front of a largely invited audience, the "in" jokes went down well. I doubt if they will raise such guffaws from a general audience.

There is no doubt, however, that Marks' songs, a mixture of raucous, raunchy rockers and bluesy ballads giving Josh Shan ample opportunity to demonstrate his expertise on the guitar, will find many ready ears.

They are vibrant and exciting — powerful enough to inject life and action into an otherwise sagging, overweight production. They form the backbone of the evening and, hopefully, will be possible to hear at a later stage without the current distractions.

COMMIT NO NUISANCE
VEROORSAAK GEEN ERGENIS NIE
ਅਰਜ਼ਾ ਦਿ ਚੈਲੀਜ਼ 76006

17th MAY Sunday Times

If you like loud late-night rock, see 'Nuisance'

IT'S high time somebody did something about finding a part for Assie O'Donnell that is worthy of her skills. She is a young lady of considerable talent (and not inconsiderable looks), and we see her far too seldom.

Happily, though, her singing and comedy accomplishments are on display in COMMIT NO NUISANCE (Chelsea), a rock review that also features Charles Comyn, Michael Maxwell and Graham Clarke, the last rather embarrassedly reading lines off the back of an envelope on opening night.

In fact, it's rather more rock, well played by the Medium Wave Band, than review —

in terms of quantity, quality ... and certainly volume.

David Marks has written some good songs — among them "Sold Out!" and "Let the Back Times Roll!", which might well become hits — and the cast performs them with enthusiasm. Pity the words are hard to distinguish at times.

In contrast, the sketches, by Dale Cutts and Ron Smerczak, are a bit flat — though I enjoyed a quiz show sketch in which one of the prizes is "a free Tr anskei passport".

A pleasant enough late-night diversion, as long as you are not alarmed by loud noises.

Adrian Monteath