

# Still the SuperGoon . . .

SPIKE Milligan is a supreme master of mental slapstick. You just have to hear him playing with the phrase "Oh Dearie Me" to be assured of this.

In a highpoint of his act, he puts over this expression in such a variety of inventive ways that it induces a sort of hypnotic hysteria in his audience. And his only "props" are an old man's wig and his special Henry Crun Goon voice.

Herein lies his essence: a fecund imagination that can turn the most mundane

saying upside down and dig into the guts of unrelated absurdities. He tears paper to music, dons bigger and

STAGE  
Spike Milligan  
Playhouse

bigger false noses and sings Only a Nose — instead of Rose — and drinks "in braille" in the dark.

He includes several features from his previous South African act including the frustration dummy now in the likeness of Connie Mulder — which he bashes when he feels there is not

enough laughter at his gags.

But anything he does has the power to convulse, backed by his electric energy and apparently casual but obviously tautly choreographed activities.

There are many young fans in his audience, not around during the early cult days of the Goons, which verifies what Prince Charles has described as the "eternal quality" of Milligan's Goon humour.

Apt for the younger set is the gravelly projection of protest songs from South

African folk artist Ashley Parker, who intersperses Milligan's selections.

In the first half of the show, the Yorkshire pianist - singer - guitarist Anna Raven shows an appealing original talent, while local comedy duo, Gary and Spider, amuse afresh with their well thought out routines.

But for Goon fans, the SuperGoon himself is quite enough, especially as the show starts at 8.30 p.m. and he goes on for more than 90 minutes.

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