

REVIEWS FROM THE DAILY NEWS

Latin party with a beat!

By **SALLY SCOTT**
THERE'S a party going
down in the Cellar at

the Playhouse and on the opening night the Latin beat was so infectious, at times it was difficult to stay in one's seat.

An evening with the cast and musicians of Latin Heat is a couple of entertaining hours well spent and at R32.50 for a three-course dinner and the show it's probably the best value in town at the moment.

Those who saw last year's Cellar revue *Sounds of Brazil* will know what to expect, but Latin Heat is more of an extravaganza and expands on the theme using a popular selection of Brazilian, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Spanish, Italian and Afro-Cuban numbers, sung by Shelley Hind and Carlos Passos, plus some stylish dancing that really sizzles at times.

And talking of sizzle, dancer Verna Lewiss seems to have built-in sizzle of her own — on stage she's a fiery flash of fun with stylish partner Mark Wilson who incorporates plenty of humour into his "dirty dancing".

Serious dancing is the province of Coreen Traut whose Spanish interludes provided just the right classical touches although she lacked colour where costumes are concerned. An all white set and white costumes throughout made for a rather bland "un-Latin" look.

And, on the opening night who were having the most fun of all? The men behind the music — Joe Delew (keyboards), George Ellis (drums), Demi Fernandes (acoustic guitar), Dave Tarr (four musical hats — violin, saxophone, piano accordion and flute) and Dan Chiorbolo (keyboards), if table top tangos had been allowed Chiorbolo would surely have led the way!

This is not a quiet evening's entertainment. It's on the loud side, but there's just the right vibrant mixture of dance, song and music as well as some wicked humour which makes for carnival all the way.

Latin Heat will run for six weeks in the Cellar supper theatre