

Young people on stampede

SPRINGBOK stampede first hit the footlights in May, 1966. There were then only 18 in the cast, but almost overnight it became a musical explosion and now there are hundreds of young people — students, nurses, soldiers, pilots, teachers, police cadets, both English and Afrikaans-speaking — who count themselves as part of it.

They write their own songs, working without remuneration, and the shows they put on are an expression of their patriotism and faith in God.

"It is more than a swinging musical show." I was told by four of its leading lights, Jonathan Harrod, Gray Hofmeyr, William du Toit and Dennis Schultz, who made a name for himself playing Rugby for Border schools. "It is an expression of the spirit of the new, young South Africa.

"We want to take the best from the past—our heroes, our heritage — add the challenge of the present and go forward into the future.

"The Stampeders are young people with a goal. We love our country and want to build it up. We also believe that South Africa has a special part to play in Africa's future.

"For these tasks we feel that our generation needs training educationally, technically and, above all, in faith and character.

"We sing and make music and work with zest to get across our ideas as fast as possible to as many people as possible.

"About 50 of us will be taking our show on a three-weeks tour of Rhodesia on June 29. It will be the first crossing of our borders, but by no means the last. We plan to go as far afield as possible.

"There are equivalents of Springbok Stampede in Australia, Japan, various parts of Europe and in America. The idea originated in America and there 'sing-outs' are spreading like wildfire."

Good luck to you, Stampeders.



JONATHAN HARROD

... the best from the past,

Enthusiasm carries them through

THE ENTERTAINMENT: Springbok Stampede (B.P. Auditorium).

THE ENTERTAINERS: The Springbok Stampeders.

OPINION: Enthusiastically presented.

By **MARILYN JENKINS**

THE enthusiasm and vibrant sincerity of this group of singers are such that it is impossible not to catch some of the infectious beliefs held out by them.

A team of young people from all professions and studies have combined to present a fresh positive image of a generation which has unlimited potential for improving the declining lot of the world.

Their dedication is such that it is not possible to expect them to conform to the general pattern of "entertainment," for the programme reflects their attitudes and convictions at every opportunity.

From a purely objective standpoint, the singing, from what appeared to be a smaller choir of young men and women than is sometimes the case, was often overshadowed by the four-man band of saxophones and electric guitars.

The first half of the programme, with songs developing

the theme of faith and willingness to work for a better society, and a strong patriotism for South Africa, had zip and pace, but also a certain monotony.

The latter section contained a welcome variety, with humorous twists to songs such as "You can't live crooked and think straight," and the lilting "Shosholoza."

Yet the motivation behind the Stampeders' ideals, and their refreshing manner of coming to terms with all that needs improvement in life, makes criticism seem invalid.

Provided one is prepared to accept the challenge, and recognize the undoubted worth of what the Stampeders are doing, the entertainment should be pleasurable.

The occasional wrong note and lack of variety take second place to the steamrolling enthusiasm.

After an appearance at the Roodepoort Town Hall on Wednesday, the Stampeders will be going to Rhodesia for a month, before returning to Johannesburg for a short season.