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Springbok Stampede — A Show With A 'Message'

"SOUTH AFRICA, with its tremendous natural resources and riches, has a leading role to play in the material and economic development of Africa, but to achieve this, we must strengthen and develop the character of our people . . ." This quotation is but one of the messages conveyed by 60-odd teenagers who took the Eshowe Star Theatre audience by storm in their Springbok Stampede presentation on Tuesday night.

The theatre should have been packed out, for here was a show presented with a clear-cut sincerity to please. Here was a group of young people whose aim was to convey a message, not of religion, not of politics, but a message to strengthen mankind in the everyday pitfalls and hazards which befall him.

The whole show was bright, breezy and had a tremendous appeal not only to the teenagers who were there, but to elderly folk who were obviously impressed that in this world of strife and chaos, South African youth is able to set an example and to propagate to man how he should live with those around him.

About sixty teenagers appeared continuously on the stage and flitted from one musical item to the other, both in

English and Afrikaans, each item conveying a message or a tribute to South Africa or one of its men of history.

Interviewed after the show, one of the leaders of Springbok Stampede, 18-year-old Jonathan Harrod told the Zululand Times that the group consisted of university and school-going students from all over South Africa.

Another member of the cast 16-year-old Elizabeth Gillmore, said that one of the object of Springbok Stampede was to raise the moral and cultural standards not only of the youth of our country but also of the world. She continued: "We all try to live and think righteously,

and in our musical presentation we try to convey to our audience the need for a sane outlook upon the problems which confront them.

Never has a group of performers captured the imagination of an audience as the cast of Springbok Stampede did on Tuesday night. Other commitments made it impossible for the group to give a second performance in Eshowe, but those Zululanders who missed it will be doing themselves an injustice if they do not make a special trip to Durban (12th July), Pietermaritzburg (14th July) or Pietermaritzburg (21st July) to see the show.

—I. L. S.