

# TURN KID FEZA LIFTS THE ROOF



**WHO** let that undernourished kid on to the stage? Why didn't some one take that urchin with his toy trumpet and give him an ice-cream?

But the kid lined up between those jazz giants, Dudu Pukwane and Nick Moyake, and nobody chased him away.

He screwed his right shoulder down into his stomach, he squinted his eyes and ballooned his spare cheeks. Then he tore the most rapturous notes out of that trumpet.

## Passionate

This was no kid. This was Mongezi Feza, 18-years-old, but already the deepest blue of Chris Macgregors Blue Notes.

With his passionate trumpet he lifted the roof off the staid Wits. University Great Hall, Johannesburg, on Friday night until even the tightly-laced ladies and the dinner jacketed gents could not contain their shouts of pleasure.

This concert was the send-off for the Sponono cast, due to leave shortly for Broadway, New York, where they will present Alan Paton's musical to the Americans.

But sometimes the Sponono people lacked in vitality what they had in correctness.

The men in their grey suits and the women in their doeks looked and sounded like a well-schooled mission choir when they came on the stage for the Sponono songs.

## Glories

The Blue Notes compensated fully. This is a remarkable group. Setting the pace at the piano was Chris Macgregor.

He never overpowered anybody, but just laid down the foundation and underscored it for the soloists.

Here is a Duke Ellington of South African jazzmen. But for alliteration lets call him Count Chris.

Dudu was not playing the best I have heard him, though there was still enough of his pulsating alto sax to remind us of his possible glories.

Nick "Charlie Parker" Moyake is a tenor man of sound capabilities. While he lacks Dudu's talent for high spots, his tenor is full and throaty and sometimes very sweet—a real Ben Webster sound.

Together with Kid Feza, these

two make a formidable line-up of brass. They have a big sound.

On the drums Mongezi Velelo drove an incisive rhythm. If anyone doubted that Louis Moholo was a slouch on the drums, they were proved wrong when he could be clearly heard backing up the vocalists with his intricate fingering.

Letta Mbulo was the girl of the night. Her songs got a big ovation but to my taste she is wasting

her big voice on Cole Porter and similar syrup.

She should listen to the Bessie Smith recordings (all of them) and Ella Fitzgerald (some of them) and then realise what can be done.

When she goes to America—where she will appear in night clubs as well as in Sponono—she might make it as an entertainer as she is.

With better material she could be more—she could be a great jazz singer.

● All seats were sold for the Sponono concert on Friday, and last night 200 people had to be turned away. But there will be further performances at Wits, on February 4 and 5 and others at Pretoria and on the East Rand.



Some of the Capetown Choir with Shirley Arden, who plays Queenie, in "Showboat", which returns to the Civic Theatre, Johannesburg, for a season on February 5. There will be a Non-European performance on February 8. The show will be going to Durban later.

KID FEZA

## Peter Lawford IS coming

Peter Lawford is definitely coming to South Africa to star in "Dingaka", says the Jamie Uys Studios, who are making the film.

Mr. Joe Levine, the leading independent producer, is sending a writer to South Africa to give the script a "world look".

Meanwhile, the final tribal scenes are being shot in the Northern Transvaal.