

A dazzling performance

SUMUDU Jayatilaka's wonderful vocal talents dazzled a packed Plowright Theatre audience in Scunthorpe last night, singing with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra.

The breathy soulfulness of the Scunthorpe star's vocals on Billie Holiday's Loverman threatened to break into uncontrolled Stevie Wonder-style funkiness.

Her singing had natural rhythm, blues inflections, and an infectious joyfulness.

At times she looked

nonplussed by her own phenomenal talent, fingering her throat shyly.

The 20-strong orchestra were all soloists who showed a maturity beyond their years, and, for the last tune of the night solo items were determined by who had not "had much of a go tonight".

Trombonist Andy Wood's playing had great force, verve, and technique, revealing the full range of the instrument's sounds.

Saxophonist Paul

Jones' could play wildly like Coltrane or more smoothly and melodically like Stan Getz.

The many brilliant trumpeters included Tim Jackson, with his Miles Davis-inspired muted, introspective, tone.

The youthful exuberance and humour of the group were typified at the end of the concert as they congoed round the theatre and out the exit.
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