

Springbok Stampede is here and getting a great reception

SPRINGBOK STAMPEDE gave their first performance to a packed house at the Convent Hall last night and had a great reception from an audience immediately responsive to the exhilarating, positive and infectious cheerful spirit they bring to their musical crusade. They are giving a matinee performance for schools this (Friday) afternoon and another public performance tonight.

The big cast is completely successful in creating an impression of natural and healthy youth and happiness finding an outlet in an enthusiastic idealism set to music with all the exciting appeal of the modern "beat", but with an added element of discipline and purpose.

In their own words the Springbok Stampede seek "to unite with young Rhodesians with whom they share a common task on the African continent, not only to resist the present threat, but to build a hate-free, fear-free, greed-free continent in the years ahead, believing that Southern Africa with its wealth of skills must play a decisive role in Africa's development."

Springbok Stampede arrived in Gwelo on Wednesday afternoon and went straight to a reception ar-

ranged by the Afrikaans community where they met their hostesses. All the Stampede members are being accommodated in Gwelo homes.

They came to Gwelo direct from triumphant performances in Bulawayo and Wankie. In Bulawayo they put on eight shows, all of them packed out. Sixty young Bulawayans are already rehearsing for a Stampede of their own and there was a quick response in Gwelo, too, to the end-of-performance invitation for young people to join the cast on stage and get going.

After tonight's performance the cast will pack up their truck and leave at dawn tomorrow for Que Que. Proceeds from all performances go to keep Springbok Stampede on the road. They had to buy a truck and minibus for the Rhodesian tour and hope to defray at least a small part of this capital expense from the shows.

The cast had, regretfully, to forego the reception laid on for them by the Mayor and Mayoress this afternoon in order to fit in the matinee performance.