

Musical with a difference

By Noreen Sutcliffe

SPRINGBOK Stampede, a musical with a difference, opens in Port Elizabeth tonight. It will be something new to young and old.

The show, I am told, is an expression of the patriotism and faith the young people in the cast have in God. They sing and work without salary and with energy, talent and gaiety.

Springbok Stampede first hit the headlines two years ago. The cast then consisted of 20 young people. Today hundreds of young people, English- and Afrikaans-speaking, count themselves part of Springbok Stampede.

AMERICA

Last year Springbok Stampede visited America with outstanding results. Now it is on a tour of the Republic and Rhodesia.

The name, Springbok Stampede, was the brain-child of Charlotte Daneel, daughter of the Springbok rugby player, George Daneel.

Charlotte spent some time in America where she took part in a sing-out, the American name for a similar show. On her return to South Africa she felt that South African youth should take up the challenge like their American counterparts and put their feelings and aims across by means of music. She decided the best name for the show would be Springbok Stampede.

TEACHER

A Port Elizabeth teacher, Miss Celia van 't Hoogerhuys, took part in the Springbok Stampede in June last year when the show played to packed houses in Durban. It was given a five-star rating by theatre critics in Natal—a higher rating than some of the imported musicals playing in Durban at the time.

"It is a wonderful show. The



Springbok stampeders in action during one of their shows along the Garden Route this week. Springbok Stampede opens tonight in the Crispin Hall, Mount Road. The musical is acted, organised, and stage-managed by scores of young South Africans. The cast include nurses, students, soldiers, teachers, police cadets and others. The show is fast moving with scores of rousing songs that have caught the imagination of young and old.

young people do everything themselves. They arrange the numbers, see to the stage direction and keep the show going with plenty of movement throughout," she said.

SPIRIT

This is more than a swinging musical show. It is an expression of the spirit of young South Africa. The young people want to take the best from the past, add the challenge of the present and surge into the future.

This they try and do through the musical. There is nothing stodgy about the show, it is

slick with plenty of movement and has an appealing swing.

During the season in Cape Town the cast played to a packed house of 1,000 people and received rave notices from critics there.

Some of the young people in the show are still at school. To overcome schooling problems they have a travelling school and do their studies on tour. Teachers travel with Stampede.

There will be two shows in Port Elizabeth. They start at 8.15 tonight and tomorrow night in the Crispin Hall, Mount Road.