

# The Kartoffel Club

## Glynn Wickham Theatre

If Bristol's night clubs were like this, I'd change my habits and go there! This recreation of a Berlin 1920s 'Kabarett' was the product of an exploration into that period of theatre history by second-years at the university's drama department.

The Syncopated Kit-Kat Stompers were playing as we entered the hall, splendidly transformed into a night-club, with bar, dance floor, and seating for the audience at stylish tables where we were served drinks by character-acting student ushers and wine-waitresses. The on-stage cabaret, supplemented by performances within the audience, ranged from genuine 1920s music and risqué songs to 1980s 'agitprop', 'sport theatre' and sketches inspired by Brecht, Piscator and Dada.

It was funny, well-dressed and well-performed both on and off the stage. And stylish: from the wall-decorations and furniture design right down to the programme featuring contemporary adverts and illustrations by George Grosz.

The 1920s eroticism and alienation were gently nudged rather than recreated, in a skilful presentation which really was a 'kabarett', not a student revue - and thoroughly entertained not only the performers' friends and fellow-students but also the general public. Bravo director Gunter Berghaus, and all those enthusiastic performers, both in the spotlight and behind the bar! (Shirley Brown)