

# Fiona makes a right song and dance about it!



**W**hen you're fed up with the present and frightened of the future (sounds like the intro to an old vaudeville song), all that remains is the past. Nostalgia, someone should tell Tony Blair, is big business these days. The Priestley Centre for the Arts, which is having a difficult present and

## THEATRE

with **JIM GREENHALF**

faces an uncertain future, is certainly taking a great big header back into the past.

The theatre is staging two late summer shows simultaneously from August 30 to September 1 in the main house and in the Studio Theatre.

The Studio show is George Bernard Shaw's 1933 playlet Village Wooing. The main house production features the singer Fiona Harrison in numerous costumes, belting out an extraordinary number of hit songs and old favourites in five performances of



three musical periods. She must have the lungs of a Nar Whale.

Down Paradise Row runs on August 30 with two shows at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Set at the turn of the nineteenth century, it tells the rags-to-riches story in song of Rosie O'Branegan, a London barrow girl.

From Cobbles to Rock, on for one performance only on August 31 at 7.30pm, is a decade-by-decade journey through the Twentieth Century, each

decade represented by changes of costume and songs. Changing fashions and news topics of each period are also narrated.

We'll Meet Again, the final show, runs for two performances on September 1 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Set in 1943, the show features Fiona as a wartime ATS lance corporal and is packed with period classics made popular by the likes of Dame Vera Lynn and Gracie Fields.



### BROLLY GOOD SHOW:

*Fiona Harrison rings the changes during her many costume changes for her three-show, five-performance presentation of hit songs from down the years*

Each performance of these three shows consists of two halves, each of 45 minutes, with a 20-minute interval.

Fiona's repertoire is one that would make the three tenors wince. For example, From Cobbles to Rock alone consists of no fewer than 35 songs, from I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles to Nessun Dorma, from Boogie Woogie Bygones to My Heart Will Go On.

Backed by an orchestra, singers, a whole load of special effects as well as a wardrobe that would make Joan Collins look poorly dressed, Fiona Harrison will be going for it big time. While she is singing her heart out, a rarely-seen comedy romance by George Bernard Shaw will be performed in the Studio Theatre next door.