



STEVE BOSCH/Vancouver Sun

**BLACK & GOLD 2:** Leora Cashe (left), Howard Dell, Sandra Grant, Chancz Perry,

## THEATRE

# Black, Gold and Mr. Shaw

BARBARA CROOK  
Sun Theatre Critic

**I** DARE YOU TO SIT still during *Black & Gold 2*. If you don't tap your toes, clap your hands, snap your fingers or sway in your seat throughout this evening of classics and hits by black artists, check your pulse.

The two-hour musical revue at the Arts Club Revue Cabaret, compiled and directed by *A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline* creator Dean Regan, is a fast-paced, musically solid string of tunes from *Birdland* to *Bad Girls*.

*Straighten Up and Fly Right*, *For Once in My Life*, *Smoke Gets in Your*

### ■ BLACK & GOLD 2

Starring Sibel Thrasher, Howard Dell, Chancz Perry, Sandra Grant and Leora Cashe  
*Arts Club Revue Cabaret, Monday to Friday at 8 p.m., Wednesday at 5 p.m. and Saturday at 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., until Dec. 18. Call 687-1644*

*Eyes*, a fabulous a capella version of *In the Still of the Night* and back-to-back renditions of *My Girl* and *My Guy* are just a few of the dozens of songs performed in their entirety or in medley.

What makes it more than

just nostalgia night are the bright talents of the fine cast. Sibel Thrasher, Howard Dell, Chancz Perry, Sandra Grant and Leora Cashe sing, dance and vamp the night away.

Each of the singers has a special gift. Perry and Grant are also wonderful dancers, Dell can sing anything from bass parts to Stevie Wonder falsettos and Cashe has a rich, emotional voice.

The audience saves a special part in their hearts for Thrasher, and she earns it. She has a great voice and an engaging presence onstage, but it's the vulnerability and the sense that she's giving everything to her songs that shine through the footlights.

The musicians — Jaye Krebs, Lou Hoover and the dashing Craig McGregor — are also solid and versatile. But the music is cranked up so loud that the singers are often drowned out, or have to fight for their share of the sound waves. Turn down the volume, please!

*Black & Gold 2* isn't Theatuh. It isn't even theatre, except in the broadest sense. But it sure is good music.