

NEW END THEATRE

**Don't Shoot Me I'm Only the  
Piano Player**

WRITTEN AND performed by David Scheel, "Don't Shoot Me I'm Only the Piano Player" claims to be the 'cleanest, funniest one-man show in London.'

Quite a tall order, but having seen this 50 minute cabaret version, it certainly is one of the wittiest pieces of theatre on the Fringe. But Scheel is no Fringe arriviste. His grounding is pure variety, perfect timing, delicious pausing for maximum effect. He has the good sense to realise that satire cuts deepest when handled with an unbiased approach, and though capitalising on the recent election Scheel avoids party politics.

No subject is too sacred; the wealthy Marxist and the Tory snob come under equal fire. Above all, Scheel shows no patience with radical chic or alternative humour - the pretentious is taboo.

His quicksilver patter is interspersed with brilliant keyboard work (he is a trained concert pianist) and fast change cameos in a multitude of accents and voices. It is a show which is sophisticated, and very fast, and judging from Saturday night's response, audiences are loving it.

**Hilary Brown**

**[Review of David Scheel's London  
debut season, May 1986]**