Solo fun tour with David

TWO hours is a long time to entertain an audience single-handed - but for musical humorist David Scheel it was no problem.

His one-man show, "Don't Shoot Me, I'm Only the Piano Player", was an immediate success with Tuesday's festival audience.

The multi-talented Australian set off on a wide-ranging tour - across continents, cultures and centuries. Musical numbers jostled with verbal funnies, with the end result a perfect harmony of entertainment.

He had anecdotes and songs from America, Russia, Scotland, France, Ireland, and a very funny "translation" of his native 'national anthem' -"Waltzing Matilda".

A natural at the keyboard, he showed his versatility in an effortless rendition of "Scotland the Brave" played in the styles of J. S. Bach, Mozart, Rachmaninoff and Albeniz.

For me, a northerner far from home, his "Geordie Suite" was an unexpected bonus, and his tribute to the great George Gershwin a gem for all. A swipe at his native Oz was a recurring theme, but few nationalities escaped his wit.

A great evening. Don't worry David, we'll only shoot you if you don't come back next year!

CHRIS CARR

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