

Energetic trio were not “idol”

Concert was a showtime spectacle

A COLOSSAL music concert – complete with screaming fans, swooning women and kisses being blown between artists and the audience – at the Durban Exhibition Centre on Sunday evening reached fever pitch.

The funky and young trio of singers, popularly known as the *Indian Idols* finalists – Amit Paul, Ankita Mishra and Emon Chaterjee – delivered a top-notch show alongside, a live, local and voooma troupe of Durban musicians, the Bollywood Showband, instead of relying on backing tracks.

The concert, made possible courtesy of Showtime Promotions, proved a winning formula as a packed auditorium of fans were thrilled to bits when the trio danced among them, shaking hands and waving.

It was refreshing to see this interaction from the “stars”, who were totally obliging as they continued to devote a healthy dose of time to patrons, who clamoured to the front of the stage when the show, which also featured Saraswathi Impressions as the opening act, ended at around 10pm. The wavy-haired and speckled Emon proved, to me anyway, the biggest crowd pleaser.

Seemingly appearing as the joker, the natural-born entertainer, who often bopped his mop about, has a captivating vocal range, which he showcased to the nines. Also evident was a few killer dance moves! Oh, and he is not too bad on the guitar either.

Clad in cowboy boots, black tights and a white bolero jacket at one stage, teenager Ankita enjoyed her share of the spotlight as she left the stage and danced energetically in the aisles soon after Emon.

As she swayed her hips and punched her hand into the air while



The *Indian Idols* finalists, from left, Emon Chaterjee, Amit Paul and Ankita Mishra

Pictures: NINEY RUTHNAM

rhythmically leaping back and forth, confident men and women saw fit to display their Bollywood-inspired moves, to a round of cheer:

The flawless and petite beauty soon made way for *Indian Idols* runner-up, Amit, who often encouraged patrons to sing-along to an assortment of beats

as a competition – as to which side of the audience could sing the loudest – played out. The bubbly Indian stars, with a whirlpool of talent between



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them, finally joined forces – much to the delight of everyone – as a series of knee-slapping, foot-stomping songs were performed.

Sunday proved to be a fantastic evening similar to the Shaan, Anu Malik and Kunal Ganjawala showdown, hosted yet again by Showtime Promotions, at the Westridge Tennis Stadium a few years ago.