

Alka makes all the right moves

SOULFUL SINGER Alka Yagnik, in a completely new avatar, enthralled trauling audiences at Emperor's Palace on Sunday evening, but it was the L/I Champs duo who won the hearts of patrons.

Alka, who a few years ago was slated by local critics for her drab dress sense, hardly moving on stage and appearing unprepared for the show, probably took heed of that criticism and changed it.

A more confident Alka not only moved about the stage gracefully in stunning outfits, but even dared to sit at the edge of the stage at times (as shown in our picture).

Belting out some of the scores of hits she has sung over the years, the velvet-voiced nightingale reminded the audience, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, that she was essentially a playback singer and would have preferred to sing from behind the stage.

But the rapport with the audience was quickly established as the former staid songstress even told a joke or two.

The audience really came alive when Abhigyan Das and Shreyasi Bhattacharjee, stars of the TV series *L/I Champs*, rendered a range of items with videos showing a maturity that



belied their age.

If the diminutive Abhigyan, 13, was not seen physically, one would have thought one was listening to a 25 or 30-year-old experienced singer.

Although she should perhaps try to scream less into the mike, Shreyasi, 14, also showed a great vocal range.



ABOVE: Ekbal Omarjee of Global Bollywood Music, third from left, with Shreyasi Bhattacharjee, left, Rex D'Souza and Abhigyan Das. **LEFT:** Indian nightingale Alka Yagnik serenades the crowd with her melodious voice

Pictures: FAKIR HASSEN

The other artist was *Indian Idol* contestant Rex D'souza, who was much older than the other two, filling the gap between them and Alka.

Alka also showed good grace in asking the others to join her on stage for some items, including her now tradi-

tional finale of the song that first shot her to fame, *Ek Do Teen* from the film *Tezaab*.

The audience, who braved a late, cold night on a Sunday before a working day, certainly got their money's worth from Showtime Promotions with this one!