

## By Sabine Armbruster

Affalterbach - It is no easy task to get the Swabian public out of their seats, especially the more sedentary, but The Beatles cover band: Help! A Beatles Tribute succeeded. For two hours on Friday, the four musicians performed hit after hit and were asked back for several encores. When it was over they were still available for photos with the visitors in the beer garden at 7-Eichen, so that one could fulfill the dream of being immortalized together with the (almost genuine) Beatles.

In fact, one had a déjà-vu experience at first when the quartet appeared on stage in black suits from the 1960's and mop-top hairdos. This was reinforced by the intro recording of screaming teenagers. And when the first bars of "A Hard Day's Night" sounded, Beatles night in Lemberg began. The teenagers of the past have long hit old age, but the music from Liverpool is still fresh, as the younger ones showed in the audience. And with the later more rock oriented Beatles songs like "Get Back", "Come Together", "Revolution" or "Back in the USSR", even the elders were young once again. There was dancing and partying, but loud singing proved to be most amazing.

The four musicians - Matic Pelcel as John Lennon, Žiga Stanonik as George Harrison, Gašper Oblak as Ringo Starr, and Ernie Mendillo, the only American in the Slovene band, as Paul McCartney - produced a sound that was sometimes incredibly close to the original. In particular, Help's harmonies stood out. The opening song garnered whistles of approval. Almost seamlessly the hits merged into each other and left the audience hardly a moment for applause from the very first single "Love Me Do" to the first No. 1 single in Great Britain; "Please Please Me" to the BBC recording of Chuck Berry's "Johnny B. Goode" and their final bow.

Ernie Mendillo kept challenging the audience to clap and sing along. Nearly everyone joined in the refrain of "Yellow Submarine" and "Hey Jude" with a loud "na-na-na-na". The audience even sang the line "I said something wrong now I long for yesterday" from the Beatles' most famous hit song. On "Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da", the crowd was invited to do a "conga line", which soon snaked through the rows. And when the audience was invited to "Twist and Shout" they did so without hesitation.

Very consciously, the band not only perform the hit singles, but also some of the great album tracks as well, Ernie Mendillo said after the concert. This mixture has proved successful in the nearly five years the band has performed together. It certainly was true this evening at 7-Eichen.