



Shirley you can't be serious!

TEMPLE OF FUME: rock chick Debbie Elthallon was told she was like a 50-year-old Shirley Temple

Photo: CARINAWINT/1983/8

IT CAN'T be a nice feeling when someone says you look like a 50-year-old Shirley Temple.

But when the mud-slinging comes from Pop Idol bad guy Simon Cowell and the put-down is broadcast to millions on television, it must really hurt.

But DebEspèce, 39, has not let it get her down. She knows she has the X factor, even if the TV judges don't.

By JON RYDER

The singer - aka Deborah Elthallon from Chapel Road, West Norwood, - impressed TV producers of the new Pop Idol-style reality show enough to get an audition in front of judges Simon Cowell and Sharon Osbourne.

But the notoriously blunt panel were not to be enamoured by her performance of Patti Smith's *Because The Night*.

Deborah told the *Souff London Press*: "I did the song in the queue outside and the whole crowd clapped. I was really pleased."

"But Simon Cowell said I looked like Shirley Temple aged 50. I knew that though, because I'd spiced things up to get on TV."

She added that Osbourne told her she had a good voice which needed training, but warned that it could be too late for the 39-year-old.

A comment that wasn't received too well by Deborah because *X Factor* has been pitched as

the competition with no age limit.

The singer's retaliation to Osbourne was cut from the ITV1 airing of the show on Saturday, but ITV2 viewers saw her furious, expletive-filled backlash.

Deborah hasn't given up hope though - she's written to *This Morning* asking for a "rock chick" makeover to help her hit the big time.

● Turn to p14 of *Pulse* for an interview with Sharon Osbourne.