

News, Analysis and Comment

REVIEW: *De-Orchestrated* Cabaret ignites Theatreworks

Arts Hub

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You don't have much time to left to witness this wonderfully innovative, passionate and hilarious cabaret which shows off this dynamic duo's virtuosity across a plethora of styles and passion for performing in front of an audience at Theatreworks St.Kilda.

De-ORchestrated is the creation of Jacqui and Brenton Edgecombe. One of the things you realize, as soon as the show begins, is how seldom we actually get to listen to classically trained orchestral musicians showing off! Taken out of the confines of an orchestra, one can truly appreciate the mastery these performers have attained over their instruments and admire the way they make truly difficult music seem effortless.

Jacqui's first instrument is the cello and Brenton is a violinist. Brenton also displays his considerable capabilities as a guitarist, pianist (in the mould of his childhood hero Elton John) and singer. Jaqui sings well and also plays the triangle. After lamenting her lack of versatility she gives a truly funny demonstration of how to play the typewriter! Not only is this rendition in time with the music, she also presents a copy of what she has written to an audience member, which we're told contained no spelling mistakes!

The versatility of the pair ensures that all musical tastes are catered for. We hear parts of *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Carmen* and *William Tell*. We hear songs from Elton John and Johnny Cash. There is a satirical version of *The Devil Went Down to Georgia* (The Devil Went Down To Tasmania). Even a patriotic rendition of *Waltzing Matilda* that is tasteful and wonderfully understated.

The music is supplemented by tales of the couple's travels, experiences, jokes, hopes and dreams. The dialogue is honest and unpretentious. Jacqui's elegance is offset by Brenton's devil-may-care attitude to wardrobe. Both are funny and neither negates the other on stage.

All in all, it's a fun night or afternoon out. Theatreworks has been set up in a cabaret style and there are tables set up to add to the atmosphere. Audience members are encouraged to enjoy a drink before and during the show. The success of any cabaret comes down to the comfort of the audience, so get down to St.Kilda relax and enjoy this truly refreshing part of the fringe.

You can still get tickets from Friday 26th until Sunday the 28th of September. There are evening and matinee shows available. Go to www.theatreworks.org.au or phone 03 95343388.



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