

Royal night of singing, dancing kings and queens

With Cleopatra on percussion and the Queen of Hearts among the first violins, the Canberra Pops Orchestra under Ian McLean served up a varied royal menu at its recent concert on the theme of kings and queens.

Kicking off the program with a dose of high camp, orchestra and choir were joined on stage by the Canberra Pops Dancers for an enjoyably over-the-top rendition of Abba's *Dancing Queen*.

As the first half continued, however, the orchestra struggled to recapture its swing, fighting over tempo changes in a selection of highlights from Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The King and I* and lacking cohesion in Handel's

Canberra Pops Orchestra - Kings and Queens

Canberra Theatre. June 4.

Reviewer: **Daniel Sanderson**

overture to the *Music for the Royal Fireworks*.

Later, Strauss's *Emperor Waltz* received a lugubrious interpretation that was at odds with the exuberance of the rest of the program.

Things were not helped by a thoroughly unsympathetic microphone system, which often hid important melodic lines behind a wall of brass and reduced the sound of the first violins to a teeth-jarringly high-pitched rasp.

Happily, by the concert's second half the technical problems

seemed largely to have been resolved and the orchestra had begun to enjoy itself.

A medley of tunes from Lerner and Loewe's *Camelot* had a satisfying sparkle, while a lovely performance from the oboe section helped give Handel's *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* the appropriate lightness and verve.

The evening's stand-out moments occurred during the two sets by special guest, Queenie van de Zandt, who revelled in this opportunity to play to her hometown crowd.

Between jokes with McLean and some light-hearted teasing of her parents, van de Zandt gave absorbing performances of some unexpected repertoire drawn from

little-known corners of musical theatre, pop classics and her own forays into song-writing.

The arrangements for these pieces, prepared like many of those in the show by the orchestra's own Lucy Bermingham, were notable for their sensitivity and finesse.

The near-capacity crowd at the Canberra Theatre responded warmly to McLean's creative musical choices and engaging commentary.

Imperfections notwithstanding, the Canberra Pops Orchestra succeeded admirably in continuing its tradition of providing Canberra audiences with inclusive and thoroughly entertaining music-making.



Queenie van de Zandt.

Nostalgic rock show full of exciting fresh talent

On a stage set up like a giant 1960s living room, complete with glowing fireplace and the obligatory lava lamp, *The Rock Show* offered a winning celebration of the greatest hits of rock and roll from the 1960s and 70s.

Australian rock legend Jon English presided over proceedings in jovial style, taking the evening's numerous technical glitches in his stride, and giving the band of nine young rockers ample opportunity to show off their skills on a vast array of unexpected instruments.

All the favourites got a hearing, from The Rolling Stones to AC/DC via Deep Purple and David Bowie. Vocalist - and the show's director - Stuart Smith quickly

The Rock Show

ANU Arts Centre. June 5.

Reviewer: **Daniel Sanderson**

demonstrated all the rock star swagger of his forebears with an energetic take on The Who's *My Generation*, while Kita Kerford brought a raffish charm to Janis Joplin's *Me and Bobby McGee*.

Later, in one of the evening's most satisfying moments, the show's disconcertingly fresh-faced musical director, Isaac Hayward, brought the full range of the band's musical resources together for a lush rendering of Manfred Mann's *Handbags and Gladrags*.

English himself brought more

than four decades of rock and roll experience to bear on a series of numbers throughout the show, often in surprising ways.

Particularly memorable was the dark, almost menacing quality he brought to *A Day in the Life*, part of a medley of Beatles tunes that was notably generous in its comprehensiveness.

Perhaps the show's weakest point came during the encores, when the focus that had characterised the preceding two and a half hours slipped a little over Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

Much more successful was the number that followed, as English, backed by the full forces of the band, brought the show to an close

with a full-throated account of Joe Cocker's *A Little Help From My Friends*.

While interpretations were for the most part straightforward, the extraordinary talent of the young performers, and the genuine enjoyment they appeared to find in exploring what might otherwise seem fairly well-beaten musical paths, gave the show a freshness and an excitement that was catching.

It certainly didn't take long before the audience of respectable middle-aged Canberrans who had filed in from the pre-show dinner were singing along and dancing in their seats just as their teenage selves had no doubt done 30-something years before.



Jon English.

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G General

PG Parental Guidance recommended

M Recommended for mature audiences

R18+ Restricted to 18 and over

MA15+ Not suitable for people under 15. Under 15's must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian

X18+ RESTRICTED TO 18 YEARS AND OVER

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MANUKA

TERMINATOR SALVATION (M)
NO FREE TICKETS
TUE 10.30, 1.00, 4.00, 6.45, 9.10PM

I LOVE YOU MAN (MA15+)
TUE 2.20, 4.30, 6.50, 9.00PM

SAMSON AND DELILAH (MA15+)
TUE 10.20, 12.30, 2.40, 4.45, 7.00, 9.15PM

STAR TREK (M) TUE 4.15PM

STATE OF PLAY (M)
TUE 10.20, 1.00, 3.40, 6.30, 9.15PM

BABES IN ARMS - CHILDREN UNDER 5 FREE
WEDNESDAY ONLY 10.30AM

MY YEAR WITHOUT SEX (M)
TUE 10.45, 12.45, 5.00, 7.00, 9.10PM

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2 (PG)
TUE 10.00, 12.10, 2.45, 6.45PM

ANGELS AND DEMONS (M)
TUE 10.40, 1.30, 8.55PM

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3D

SPECIAL EVENT CONDITIONS APPLY

MONSTERS VS ALIENS 3D (PG)
TUE 10.15AM

TERMINATOR SALVATION (M)
TUE 10.30, 11.30, 1.00, 2.00, 3.30, 4.30, 6.00, 7.00, 8.30, 9.30PM

I LOVE YOU MAN (MA15+)
TUE 12.30, 2.45, 5.00, 7.15, 9.30PM

STATE OF PLAY (M)
TUE 1.15, 4.00, 6.40, 9.15PM

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2 (PG)
TUE 11.00, 11.45, 1.15, 2.00, 3.45, 4.30, 6.00, 6.45, 8.15, 9.00PM

ANGELS AND DEMONS (M)
TUE 10.15, 12.15, 1.00, 3.00, 3.45, 6.30, 8.15, 9.10PM

STAR TREK (M)
TUE 10.45, 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45PM

ADVENTURELAND (M)
TUE 11.00, 6.00PM

GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST (M)
TUE 10.00, 4.30PM

X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (M)
TUE 12.10, 2.15, 6.30, 8.45PM

DEFIANCE (M)
TUE 10.00AM

WODEN

Ph. 6282 4222

TERMINATOR SALVATION (M)
TUE 10.30, 11.15, 1.00, 1.45, 3.30, 4.15, 6.00, 6.45, 8.30, 9.15PM

I LOVE YOU MAN (MA15+)
TUE 12.30, 2.45, 5.00, 7.15, 9.30PM

STATE OF PLAY (M)
TUE 12.45, 3.40, 6.20, 9.00PM

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2 (PG)
TUE 10.15, 11.15, 1.00, 1.45, 3.15, 4.15, 5.45, 6.45, 9.00PM

ANGELS AND DEMONS (M)
TUE 10.00, 12.45, 3.30, 6.30, 9.15PM

STAR TREK (M)
TUE 10.15, 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45PM

GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST (M)
TUE 10.00AM

X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (M)
TUE 10.30, 8.00PM

TUGGERANONG

Ph. 6293 2622

TERMINATOR SALVATION (M)
TUE 10.15, 11.00, 12.45, 1.30, 3.15, 4.00, 5.45, 6.30, 8.15, 9.00PM

I LOVE YOU MAN (MA15+)
TUE 12.10, 2.20, 4.30, 7.00, 9.15PM

STATE OF PLAY (M)
TUE 10.30, 1.15, 6.15, 8.50PM

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2 (PG)
TUE 11.00, 11.45, 1.15, 2.00, 4.15, 5.45, 6.30, 8.45PM

ANGELS AND DEMONS (M)
TUE 10.00, 12.40, 3.30, 6.15, 9.00PM

STAR TREK (M)
TUE 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30PM

GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST (M)
TUE 10.00, 4.00PM

X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (M)
TUE 10.45, 3.30, 8.00PM

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Wed 10:45am, 4:15pm

GOMORRAH (MA15+)
Today/Wed 10:45am, 3:40pm

I REALLY HATE MY JOB (M)
Today 2:20pm, 7:10pm
Wed 2:20pm, 9:30pm

IS ANYBODY THERE? (M)
Today/Wed 12:30pm, 2:30pm, 7:00, 9:00

KATYN (MA15+)
Today/Wed 10:00am, 4:30pm

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2 (PG)
Today/Wed 10:00am, 2:20pm, 9:10pm

QUIET CHAOS (MA15+)
Today/Wed 12:10pm, 4:30pm, 6:50pm

STAR TREK XI (M)
Today/Wed 10:15am, 3:45pm, 6:45, 9:20

STATE OF PLAY (M)
Today 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:00, 9:30
Wed 1:30pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

TERMINATOR SALVATION (M) NFT
Today/Wed 1:30pm, 4:00pm, 6:30, 9:00

THE BAADER MEINHOF COMPLEX (MA15+)
Today/Wed 12:50pm

X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (M)
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Wed 10:00am, 12:10pm

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STAR TREK XI (M)
Today/Wed 10:30am, 9:30pm

STATE OF PLAY (M)
Today/Wed 1:10pm, 3:45pm, 6:30pm

TERMINATOR SALVATION (M) NFT
Today/Wed 11:00am, 1:30pm, 4:00, 6:45, 9:15

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