



Adelaide Theatre Guide

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DONNY – THE ROCK OPERA

Monkey with a Gun Theatre Guild

Little Theatre, University of Adelaide

Review by Theresa Dolman

Imagine, if you can, a rock opera about cricket... no, seriously. "Donny the Rock Opera" is a musical based on the life and times of Sir Donald Bradman, complete with a band dressed in cricket attire and a video display showing vintage footage of "The Don".

The set was simple: a set of stumps, tables and chairs that were carried on and off and rainwater tank that, when turned around, became a set of lockers.

Unfortunately, this production was not ready. At one stage the band, which included three members of the writing team, started playing the wrong song.

Lighting cues were frequently mistimed. Despite the simple set, scene changes were clumsy, with some taking so long you could only assume that the cast had got lost backstage.

Paul Slattery, in the lead role of Donny, had great strength in his voice, but he may find if he doesn't use his diaphragm to control it better than, unlike "The Don", he won't last the season. Regan Englehardt and Joseph Hynes faired well as Jardine and Larwood respectively, but the rest of the cast, although managing to give support vocally, did not have the acting capabilities to carry off the characters they were portraying.

Although the members of the band were all obviously talented musicians, there were major problems with the sound balance---the band was so loud that you couldn't understand what was being sung, which made it difficult to follow the story.

Overall a good idea, but it needs work.

Rating:

1 out of 5