



Adelaide Theatre Guide

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LADY SINGS THE BLUES

Sidonie Henbest

The Promethean

Season: 10 & 17 Jun 2010

Review by Nick Buckland

Matthew Carey and Alana Dawes take their positions on stage to play an introduction to the arrival of Sidonie Henbest. The sounds are instantly rich and melodic, and so they remain for the duration of the performance.

Carey and Dawes create the perfect musical accompaniment as Henbest talks you through a life journey that explains and justifies her musical selections. Her delivery is amusing and touched with a pathos that is moving and easy to assimilate.

She delivers a varied and challenging variety of music which includes such standards as "Nobody Knows You When You Are Down And Out", recorded by many blues legends since it was first written in 1923. This is followed by her amusing delivery of "Bewitched Bothered and Bewildered" with the lightness of Doris Day and the soul of Ella Fitzgerald.

Then more blues classics and a few surprises along the way. All heartfelt renditions with the trio pouring their souls into every note. The mood is further enhanced by excellent lighting which lifts the mood and softens it as befits the songs. A lovely evening of entertainment which leaves you humming the songs and reminiscing about your own life events brought to mind by the words and music.

The highlight is a wonderful rendition of "Nothing Compares To You" most famously performed by Sinead O'Connor in 1989. Those who know the song will first be inclined to think of it as a pop song, and then that Ms O'Connor's is the definitive version. Well, Henbest makes the song her own. Her delivery is pure blues, and an absolute cracker!