



# Adelaide Theatre Guide

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## ANOTHER EVER AFTER

**CCtheatreCo.**

Star Theatres

Until 19 March 2017

Review by Talia Gaertner-Jones

"Let your conscience be your guide" as you are swept away in the enchanting, frozen, magic carpet ride that is "Another Ever After". At least, I think that was the aim.

Caroline Cook and Gillian Biggs are the princess sisters Harmony and Melody. Biggs as Melody is the stereotypical princess with not a care in the world, whereas Harmony (Cook) tends to be overlooked and also has the unfortunate future of turning into a frozen statue on her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, which is coming up very soon, unless she is granted true loves first kiss. Throw in a 'Handsome' prince, Jed McDonald, his side-kick Duke, Ryan Tanner, and all your evil and wicked stepmothers, Maleficent (Ashleigh Hellfire), Ursula (Julie Lloyd), Cruella de Vil (Deb Jaggard) and Mother Gothel (Bermata Davis) and you have a complete mash-up of all your well-loved Disney stories. Let's not forget though, the narration of everyone's favourite cricket, Jiminy, played by Glen Draper.

"Another Ever After" has all the characters, songs and storyline to create a truly magical show, however, in many places it falls flat. Biggs has a voice of a Disney princess and does a lovely performance of "Happy Working Song", where her voice is equally matched to that of Amy Adams and also her part of the duet in "A Dream Is A Wish Your Heart Makes" from Cinderella is quite beautiful. However, her counterpart, Cook often sounded like the songs were too high for her note range. Taking on the power ballad "Let It Go" from Frozen, Cook was quite out of her depth. However, where she lacked in vocal tone, she did make up for in characterisation, going from a meek sister, turning into a confident and strong villain with loads of sass. McDonald was a similar story as Prince Handsome. Where his vocals weren't that strong in songs like "I'll Make A Man Out Of You" and "A Whole New World", he made up for them in his portrayal of the stuck-up, snobby, prince. Draper as Jiminy Cricket also seemed a tad under-rehearsed and nervous during his scenes, stumbling over his words quite a bit in the opening scenes. However, when it came to the curtain call, his rap sequence was really, quite good and it would have been good to see more of that during the show.

Tanner as Duke was one of the stronger performers on stage, and his transformation from the timid and shy prince to the almost Donald Trump sounding celebrity prince was quite funny. He did a great rendition of "Never Had A Friend Like Me" from Disney's Aladdin. A special mention should also be made to Davis as Mother Gothel, her character, voice and dancing was a standout.

Many of the costumes in the performance were quite stunning and it was obvious they had paid attention to detail, in particular to the costumes of the villains.

The show is advertised for children over 10 and adults. However, I would recommend children from 10-18 and the adults, being the parents of those children. Children are more likely to overlook the mishaps.

Rating: 2.5 stars (out of 5)