



 La Boite and Opera Queensland's production of Snow White. Stephanie Pickett plays Snow White. Picture: Dylan Evans

QLD News

# Brisbane Festival 2016: La Boite, Opera Queensland

# production of Snow White at The Roundhouse Theatre

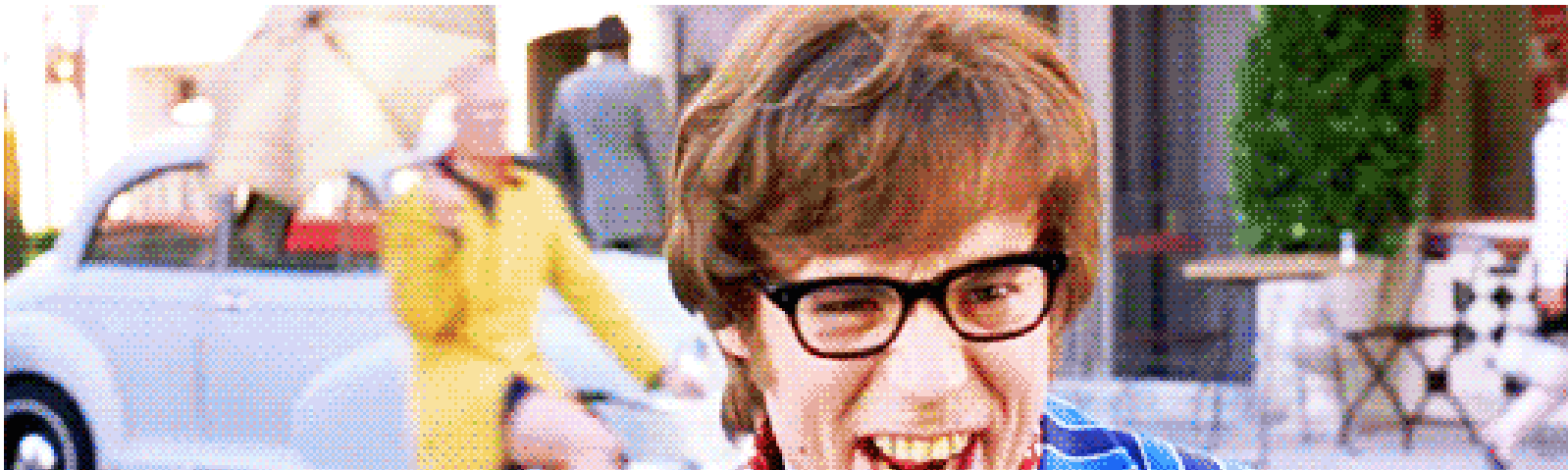
Phil Brown, Arts Editor, The Courier-Mail  
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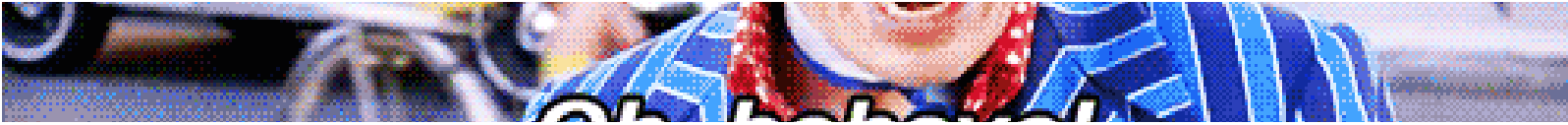
- [Brisbane Festival 2016: Review of Ballet Preljocaj's Snow White](#)

YOU don't normally expect simulated sex in a fairy tale. But Brisbane Festival's second *Snow White*, a collaboration between La Boite and Opera Queensland, is raunchy as hell.

It seems to tick all the boxes for sauciness and that sauciness seems to be one of the themes emerging at the festival this year. [Ballet Preljocaj's Snow White](#) is also sexy but in a slightly more subtle fashion.

This one features, well, how can I describe this ... dry humping. Crudely put I know but what else can you call it when the The Queen is writhing on the floor with The Huntsman. Oh behave!





It's all a bit decadent really, a cross between a play, an opera and a Weimar cabaret with an MC who is channelling Joel Grey, Frank Thring and Mephistopheles, all at the same time.

Opera singer Kanen Breen is The Mirror (this is a musical, remember) and the high-camp personification of the mirror is clever because he can give catty voice to his observations on the vanity of humans, particularly The Queen, a wicked mother played by Silvia Colloca, a singer and television cooking-show host who revels in her wickedness.



📷 Silvia Colloca as The Queen in Snow White. Picture: Dylan Evans

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Stephanie Pickett is the ingenue who turns out to be not as ingenue as we thought and Michael Tuahine is the The Huntsman, a studmuffin who The Queen is keen on doing some horizontal folk dancing with.

Lindy Hume of Opera Queensland co-directed this production with librettist Suzie Miller and composer Zulya Kamalova and while it's imperfect it's certainly edgy enough to suit a festival program and it will set tongues wagging.

There's a band onstage too which adds zest, with Steve Russell on keyboard, Kathryn McKee on cello, Mikael Strand playing trumpet and trombone and Angus Wilson on percussion.



📷 Silvia Colloca as The Queen and Michael Tuahine as The Huntsman in La Boite/Opera Queensland's production of *Snow White*. Picture: Dylan Evans

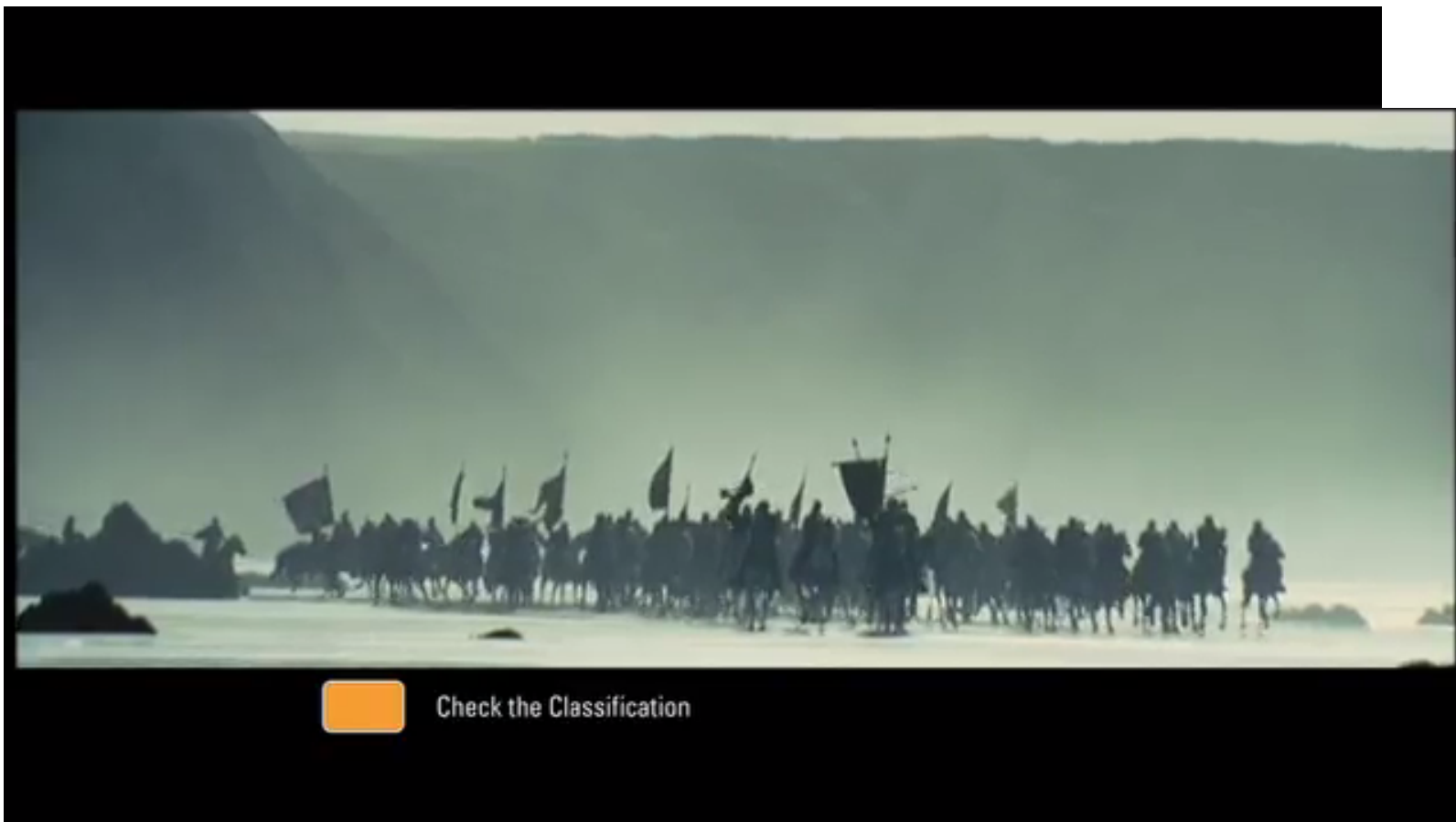
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One of the drawbacks, however is the venue - the Roundhouse Theatre, which is feeling very tired. The seats are awfully uncomfortable and on opening night people's plastic drink cups kept being knocked over and falling down. This happens at every show at La Boite and it's bloody annoying. But they encourage the party atmosphere and that includes drinking in the show and those blasted plastic cups which are becoming the scourge of opening nights. Frankly, if you can't get through a show without grog there's either something wrong with the show or something wrong with you!

Oh, and by the way, did I mention that there are no dwarfs in this version of *Snow White*? Shame.



**Snow White is on at The Roundhouse Theatre, La Boite, until Sept 24;  
brisbanefetsival.com.au**



Snow White and the Huntsman: trailer

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