

Review: Lady Beatle at La Boite Theatre

By Phil Brown, The Courier-Mail, May 29, 2017

IT'S amazing that La Boite Theatre Company programmed Lady Beatle before it was even written.

At that stage in 2016 not even the creators of the show, Naomi Price and Adam Brunes, knew quite what it was about. They had a title and had to write something that made sense of that title.

Even up to a month or so ago they weren't quite sure where it would go but now we know. But I cannot tell you because that would spoil things.

I can tell you that this is a tribute to The Beatles which coincides with the 50th anniversary celebrations marking the release of their classic 1967 album **Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band**.

There are songs from the album in the show, sung by Price, Queensland's first lady of song. She has an amazing voice and a heartfelt love of The Beatles. The British-born performer's family connections with Liverpool are strong.



Naomi Price in Lady Beatle.

Her interpretation of the music of the Fab Four is brilliant and I particularly enjoyed her rendition of Got To Get You Into My Life, one of my favourites from the album Revolver.

She is backed in this show by The Lonely Hearts Club Band — Mik Easterman, Andrew Johnson, Michael Manikus and Jason McGregor. They are smoking hot and have a real affinity for this music.

So what's this show about? Well it's about The Beatles and this enigmatic character who loves The Beatles, follows their rise but seems to be always on the outside looking in. Who is this person?

Well, you will find out and it's quite a revelation (a very moving one) and I can honestly say I never saw it coming. In fact I was kind of blown away.

It makes this show very special. Mind you I think it may be tweaked before its next outing and I'm sure there will be one.

This is a short season of a short show (it's only around 75 minutes long) but now this show exists and it can be done over and over in the coming years, as it should be. Price's Adele show is still going strong several years after its debut.

The audience on Saturday night was largely an older demographic to the usual La Boite crowd but that makes sense. These were all people who grew up with The Beatles, after all, and I could see many of them were visibly moved.

I found the show so powerfully sentimental that I was misty-eyed for much of it and was so thankful to hear the soundtrack of my life played with such verve and love. They get through an awful lot of songs with some excellent medleys which allows more numbers to be covered.

Sparse but clever lighting by Jason Glenwright is a treat, with the work of sound designer Jamie Taylor and costume designer Leigh Buchanan also adding more-with-less for this show.

At the end everyone was up and bopping and roaring their approval as if to say — Naomi Price, we love you ... yeah, yeah, yeah!