

# Glam Adelaide

<http://www.glamadelaide.com.au/>

## Kaos Kabaret – Fringe

Reviewed Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 2010 (continues until February 27<sup>th</sup>)

Upstage Theatre present **Kaos Kabaret**

<http://www.upstagetheatre.com>  
[www.adelaidefringe.com.au](http://www.adelaidefringe.com.au)

**Venue:** Irish Club, 13-15 Carrington Street, Adelaide

**Season:** February 20, 26 & 27 at 8pm

**Tickets:** \$15-\$20 (plus booking fees) available through FringeTix

**Bookings:** FringeTix 1300-FRINGE (374 643) or [www.adelaidefringe.com.au](http://www.adelaidefringe.com.au)

It is difficult *not* to sing along to the ultimate retro party playlist that makes up the Kaos Kabaret.

Local troupe, Upstage Theatre, have pieced together two 60-minute acts that feel more like a celebration than a performance.

The chronological placement of songs is a musical excursion through countless sing-a-long sensations from *Puttin' On The Ritz* to Michael Jackson's *Thriller*.

The show is based on an earlier review arranged by Susan Oldknow under the title *Let Us Entertain You*, which earned two popular seasons at the Noarlunga Theatre Company. With a smaller cast, better costumes, and a bit of tweaking, Kaos Kabaret is now a tighter and funnier fare.

Violet Rowe's outstanding costumes and wigs almost steal the show, ranging from a *Wizard of Oz* tribute to medieval kings and free loving hippies. The changes are so fast and so frequent that the revue is like a costume parade in itself. Oldknow's direction ensures the show flows smoothly and without pauses however.

Oldknow and Rowe both appear on stage with John Martin, Deirdre Quinn, Mark Hallam, Julie Oldknow, Shelley Pontiac, and audience favourite Luke Baldock, whose comic timing is exquisite. Their range is extraordinary and sure to suit all tastes. Numbers include *Fever*, *Minnie the Moocher*, *Greased Lightnin'*, *Shake a Tail Feather*, *Time Warp*, *Viva Los Vegas*, *Downtown*, *Dancing Queen* and *Born to be Wild*, to name but a few.

An occasional short skit pays homage to *Get Smart*, *The Blues Brothers*, *Pink Panther* and *Batman*, each segueing nicely into a song. There's even a dancing Dalek in an amusing *Doctor Who* tribute.

Paul Hallam's simple lighting design is well suited to the small venue, and Alisha Thompson on sound ensures the performers are easily heard over Mark Hallam's full bodied music sequences.

Kaos Kabaret is one of those rare shows that you can't help but smile at when you aren't laughing out loud. However with interval, the lampoonery runs two and a half hours, which is slightly on the

long side, particularly for a Fringe show. But with such a great line up of upbeat tunes and comedy, its biggest fault is that you can't get up and dance while you sing along.

Review by Rod Lewis, GLAM Adelaide Arts Critic.



Rating: 5.0/5 (1 vote cast)

## Messenger Newspapers

### Kaos Kabaret

IT MAY have been Kaos Kabaret by name but it was anything but chaotic in delivery. Upstage Theatre's tribute to the music, film and television classics of yesteryear at its opening show of this year's Fringe proved a fabulous night of fun and non-stop laughter.

Skits from Wizard Of Oz where Dorothy gets her come uppance, Get Smart where agent Maxwell Smart missed identifying his sidekick Ninety Nine 'by this much" and Dr Who where the good doctor spent most of his time bagging the BBC for a lack of resources was pure gold and set the tone for a night of fun and non-stop laughter.

Main performers John Martin, Deirdre Quiinn, Susan Oldknow, Julie Oldknow, Luke Baldock, Shelley Pontiac, Mark Hallam and Violet Rowe were stunning in their various portrayals of everything from the Elvises (and in one case a short Elvis) to the Beatles where Ringo couldn't make it so his mother, without drum kit and albeit short as well, filled in. The Monty Python skits were hilarious with Luke Baldock as the unappreciated King, while John Martin looked great as the dimwit Dennis.

The Batman and Robin (or was it Robyn?) skit was hilarious with Batman turning down the curvaceous and hot Cat Woman to hang out with his little mate. The hits of yesteryear from Puttin on the Ritz to the Blues Brothers to Copacabana, right down to the Michael Jackson's Thriller and Time Warp from Rocky Horror lost little in comparisons with the originals. Behind the curtains the audience wouldn't have known the helter skelter of the costume changes but it all flowed to perfection on centre stage.

This show was one hell of a night of entertainment, singing, acting, ad-libbing, Violet's fantastic costumes. It's a pity the season doesn't run long enough for more locals to appreciate a brilliant night.

Gordon Armstrong \* \* \* \* 1/2 stars (four and a half stars).

## Rip It Up

### Kaos Kabaret - Irish Club, Sat Feb 27

A wonderful frolic through a variety of songs from the past, from swing to disco and back again. The lively cast were a joy to watch as they sang, danced and joked their way through songs that included *It Don't Mean A Thing*, *Leader Of The Pack* and *Shake A Tail Feather*. Audience participation was a given as the (mostly) older crowd rocked along with the action onstage. Songs were interspersed with a collection of corny jokes and skits that ranged from good to very bad, yet always managed to raise a laugh. A fun night out for the more mature Fringe-goer.

**Final Word: Kool.**

Rosie van Heerde

<http://www.ripitup.com.au/article/547>