



Goulburn
Regional
Conservatorium



Where is the Real Musical X Factor?

From time to time over the years, I have watched various series of "reality television" music competitions. It all started a decade ago with the now defunct Australian Idol series and now we are offered two reasonably indistinguishable programs: "Australia's Got Talent" and "The X Factor". There is also a new show coming from America called "The Voice". Many people strongly advocate for these shows, arguing that they are great vehicles for promoting music and performance. Perhaps elements of those arguments are true, but on the whole, I don't agree. As a key feature of the "reality" formula, there is too much emphasis on "schaudenfreude" (enjoying the misfortune of others) and I question the lack of musical originality or creativity. Also, as a teacher of singing, I am bothered by the emphasis placed on girls singing like boys (chest voice belt) and boys singing like girls (high falsetto). However, I could put all of my musical, technical and philosophical objections aside if I wasn't continually distracted by one key question that keeps coming to mind when watching such shows: "Where is the fun?"

It seems to me that, sadly, such reality music competitions suck the idea of fun out of the experience of learning and participating in music. I'm not saying that a person can't or shouldn't take a serious approach to their music study, or try to establish a serious career in the music industry, but if there isn't an element of pure enjoyment of music simply for the sake of making music and having fun with it, then why bother?

Experiences such as music examinations, music competitions and music performances have an important role to play in the development of any person who has an interest in exploring music. They can help to bring focus to music that is being studied, offer opportunities to share music with others, promote musical understanding and inspire individuals to be truly creative. But I would suggest that the most successful experiences take place when the core element of fun is factored into the process of preparation, rehearsal and performance. Fun is the real X Factor in music. Fun is the hook that will keep you coming back to music, keep you wanting to play and learn more about music, keep you wanting to share music and experience music with others. Fun cannot be judged or quantified or compared or pretended. Fun in the making, playing and sharing of music is the kind of reality that is rarely seen on "reality television" music shows.

As the GRC looks to the opening of our new School of Rock and the many new music programs and initiatives that are under way, a sense of fun is underpinning all that we do! So, if you are having music lessons at the GRC, or competing in the local Eisteddfod, or about to appear in a concert, remember to enjoy the experience and find the fun in music!

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Lieder does the Dream justice

SIDE SPLITTERS: Bruce Gerard, Linden Fennamore, Kyle McKenna, Marc Nell and Steven Routley stole the show as the cast of the worst play in the world. They used every piece of their not inconsiderable acting ability to give the most hammy performances they could. It was hilarious! Photo: Brian Richardson.

Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream

Now showing at the Lieder Theatre

Reviewed by **TOM SEBO**

ICAN review this play in one word: WOW!

The Lieder Theatre is currently celebrating its 120th birthday, making it the longest running continuous theatre company in Australia, and they have gone all out with this production.

Director Chrisjohn Hancock has done a fantastic job, producing a piece of theatre of such high quality that it would not be out of place on one of the major stages of Sydney or Melbourne.

The production values were incredibly high. The set looked amazing, with an intricate hand-painted back drop and some last minute trimmings which really lifted the visual appeal of the piece.

The play also had a powerful original score, which was composed by Paul Paviour, and Pauline J Mullen's costumes were something else.

However, the most incredible thing was the acting, with every cast member turning in a brilliant performance.

Besides for being wordy and writing stories which were ridiculously convoluted, Shakespeare was infamous for writing plays that were designed to be ensembles. In other words, every character could be the main character and, in most cases, they think they are.

As a result, to pull off a good Shakespeare you need a cast of really good actors, capable of giving self absorbed performances and that is exactly what they have.

Former Argyle Society regular Steven Routley was a show stealer as the uncouth, uneducated, wannabe thespian Nick Bottom. It is one thing to give a good performance and it is

quite another to give a good performance of somebody giving a bad performance but he manages to do it. He provided much of the comic relief and his prolonged death scene was classic.

My favourite part of the show was the play within a play. Kyle McKenna, Linden Fennamore, Bruce Gerard, Marc Nell and Shane Daly were hilarious, making a big impact in the brief stage time they had.

I was especially impressed with the subtlety of Daly's performance. He played the ultra-nervous Snug and, despite being a fine young actor, watching him, you would honestly believe it was his first time on stage. Fennamore was also brilliant, hamming it up while playing a poor actor, poorly playing a damsel in distress – you have to see it!

Usual suspects Greg Seckold and Michelle McAleer, who played the king and queen of the fairies, turned in their typically outstanding performances.

Vince Davis and Jo Cooper showed their theatrical experience, playing off each other perfectly to provide plenty of laughs as the Duke of Athens and the Queen of the Amazon.

The young leads were also excellent, with Kieran Milward, Gosh Waters, Anne Gaul and Sarah Simpson carrying much of the play, and Mark Churchill again proving that he is an outstanding young talent.

Given it was his first time on stage, Rabindra Roy deserves commending, as do all of the youngsters who got up there and gave it a go.

As in any Shakespeare, the dialogue is both weighty and rhythmic, meaning the actors have to remember a vast amount of lines and deliver them verbatim, otherwise the show doesn't work.

All of the cast members should be proud of the work they've done and go into the rest of the season knowing one thing to be true – this is one of the best productions the Lieder has staged in years.



Seasoned veteran Michelle McAleer and little Myffanwyn Hill-Marsh, who made her stage debut on Wednesday night. Photo: Brian Richardson.

SPECIAL EVENTS

A Midsummer Night's Dream – presented by **The Lieder Theatre Company**, Lieder Theatre, cont. to Sat. 17th. Shows Fri., Sat. & Wed., 7.30pm. Ph: 4821 5066

46th Goulburn Eisteddfod, various venues around Goulburn, cont. to Wed. 28th. Ph: 4821 8301

Friday Fresh Produce Market, Uniting Church grounds, Fri. 2nd, 1pm–5pm. Ph: 4821 7283

Bush Traditions Session, Old Goulburn Brewery, Fri. 2nd, 7.30pm–10.30pm. Admission: free. Ph: 4884 4214

Lilac City Monthly Markets, Montague Street, Sat. 3rd. Ph: 4821 1839

Goulburn Uniting Church 88th Annual Daffodil Tea, Goulburn North Public School, Sat. 3rd, 2pm. Admission: \$10. Ph: 4821 4597

Goulburn Racing Club Race Meet, Goulburn Racecourse, Tue. 6th. Admission: adult \$7, concession \$3. Ph: 4822 2222

Latest Feature Film Releases, Lilac City Cinema, daily. Admission: adult \$8, children \$7 all sessions. Ph: 4822 1616 or www.lilaccitycinema.com.au

EXHIBITIONS

Blending Boundaries – Exhibition - **Animals in the Collection**, Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, Mon. to Fri. 10am–5pm & Sat. 1pm–4pm. Ph: 4823 4442

ATTRACTIONS

Old Goulburn Brewery (open Fri.–Sun.)

Goulburn War Memorial & Museum (open Sat., Sun. & Public Holidays)

Goulburn Historic Waterworks (open Sun.–Tue.)

Goulburn Rail Heritage Centre (open Tue.–Sun.)

Riversdale Historic Homestead (open Mon., Tue., Thu. & Sun. or by appointment)

To discover more about events, tours & attractions in Goulburn & Surrounds, contact the Visitor Information Centre opposite Belmore Park. Open Mon. to Fri. 9am–5pm. Weekends & Public Holidays 10am–4pm.

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THIS WEEKEND

2nd September

Tony Wade ... authorised solo

COMING EVENTS

Thurs 8th Sept

Rohan Boughton Exhibition opening ... Rohan has been working with photography manipulation for a number of years. This is his first exhibition. It is the story about moving from the dark to the Light.

9th September

Penny and the Mystics ... South Coast Indies

16th September

Alan Blackshaw ... with Steph Miller

23rd September

Underground Blues Jam ... Frank and the lads are back

FOR YOUR DIARY

Play Ukulele or like to learn? Join the Happy Strummers at the Club every Thursday from 6pm.

Goulburn Club
19 market street • 4821 2043
www.goulburnclub.com.au

open thurs-sat 5 til late

FOR INFORMATION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS