



# Adelaide Theatre Guide

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## **IT'S A DAD THING: THE MUSICAL**

**SINGular Productions**

**The Opera Studio**

Until 19 Feb 2011

Review by Brian Godfrey

"It's A Dad Thing: the Musical" is a real baby's bottler of a show and is as fresh as a newly changed nappy.

Based on a concept written and performed by six Australian actor fathers in 1999, the original play has been revamped by Adam Goodburn into a new musical version with music and lyrics by none other than Adelaide's Matthew Carey. Add to this already potent formula the directing skills of David Lampard and one has a recipe for a great show. The result, however, is a marvellous show.

Carey's songs range from humorous to extremely funny, using a pastiche of modern day musical forms and fare well under the fine musical direction of Sam Leske and the band consisting of himself, Alex Wignall, Brett Williams and Holly Thomas. Rodney Hutton's sound design is well balanced and complements the music and vocals.

Set on an extremely colourful Play School/Romper Room style Lampard designed landscape, with clever lighting design from Daniel Barber, the show is a very fast moving, well thought out parade of sketches, songs and monologues dealing with the various aspects of parenting (including the joys and frustrations; sexual and otherwise) performed by a group of five dads (Adam Goodburn, Nicholas Cannon, Kent Green, Rodney Hutton and P J Oaten) who have come together for a working bee to build a kiddie's playground for their local area.

The five performers, as individuals, are excellent, but together, they shine brilliantly, never missing a step, note, laugh or poignant moment.

Highlights include Hutton's Rock number, Green's monologue on the birth of his child, Goodburn's representative from 'BlokeLine', all of Cannon's female impersonations and Oaten's vocal manipulations. This fantastic five never let up, from larking around in the car park with a friendly game of footy as the audience arrive, to giving out free lemonade inside the venue.

This very entertaining night out is all local produce! There is however one fault: the season isn't long enough. So pack the kids off to the babysitter (or sell them), grab the first ambulance available and rush to this maternity ward of musical merriment.

Rating: 5 stars (out of 5)