

## **DIFFERENT FIELDS**

[SINGular Productions](#)

[The Opera Studio](#)

Until 06 May 2010

Review by [Maggie Wood](#)

"Different Fields" is... different. This musical drama uses football and the oval as – literally - the stage on which it plays out a story of an elite sportsman who's lost touch with the boy he used to be. A surfeit of girls, money and good times threatens to wipe out the good guy in him. His one connection to the boy of yesteryear is another boy, fatherless, who worships him as a hero.

Peter Mitchell as Adam James, top footballer, is wonderful. At once, skilled and effective, while being touching and engaging. You believe every moment of his journey.

Deborah Caddy as the young boy's mother who's struggling as a single parent is spot on – especially as she sings a heartfelt question – who can our kids look up to as heroes?

Benji Riggs as young Casey has just the right combination of knowingness and innocence to be the perfect foil for James's troubled hero.

Kathryn Dineen is suitably authoritative as the owner of the football team, John Green is quietly menacing as the loan shark and Adam Goodburn turns on the sporty schmalz as the radio announcer.

Timothy Sexton's musical arrangements are divine and designer Morag Cook has delivered a wonderful, evocative and useful set that really makes the audience a part of the action. Sue Grey-Gardner's lighting design complements it all superbly.

Director Jonathan Mill is to be congratulated. His deft touch has brought to South Australia something that is indeed quite different, yet accessible. Bravo!