

WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED LOVE

SINGular Productions

The Butterfly House

Until 17 Mar 2012

Review by [Celeste Villani](#)

Unlike many Cole Porter tributes that focus solely on his life and music, 'What is This Thing Called Love' also speaks of the musician's complicated relationship with his wife and muse Linda Lee Porter.

Adam Goodburn, Deborah Caddy and talented pianist Matthew Carey take you on a journey through the musician's life via an integration of dialogue and music that highlights how Linda influenced and inspired his music. The show's dialogue is made up of actual letters written by friends and associates of Cole – which is unusual, yet very well received by the audience.

Both Goodburn and Caddy hit all the right notes in this performance and clearly show the audience that they are in touch with the show's content. Every line is performed with the right amount of emotion and it is evident that both performers have been actively involved in the research and scriptwriting process. Although the two take on a variety of roles including narrators, Cole and Linda, and friends and acquaintances of the Porters, the duo effectively portray each character and do not confuse the audience.

Caddy's operatic voice is flawless and blends well with Goodburn's voice, especially when put in harmony together. All musical numbers are well received, however the show's musical highlights are 'I Get a Kick Out of You', 'Let's Fall in Love' and Timothy Sexton's arrangement of 'Wunderbar'.

Linda Williams' choreography, specifically in 'Brush up Your Shakespeare', is performed very well by Goodburn and Caddy; however, the lack of stage space can sometimes be restricting.

Although the performers sometimes stumble over their lines, the show has been put together very well and is definitely worth seeing. So get some friends together, book a table, learn something about the women who inspired it all and of course, unwind to the sounds of Mr Cole Porter.

Rating: 4 stars (out of 5)