

# Live Review - Different Fields, State Opera Company of SA and SINGular Productions

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Single mum receptionist Jenny Willis (Deborah Caddy) has come to an arrangement at work with Bears Football Club owner Doris (Kathryn Dineen) so her 12-year-old son Casey (Benji Riggs/Lachlan Williams) can come into the office after school.

But rather than revise for maths tests, the young lad wants to hang out in the locker room with his idol, Adam James (Peter Michell). The airwaves shimmer with nothing but golden news about the star recruit, and disc jock Cal Farber (Adam Goodburn) bids his listeners to praise the Lord for the clean-living legend.

James, though, has hidden demons perched upon his brooding shoulders, then nipping at his heels in the person of Ron Bowen (John Greene), who comes collecting gambling debts – and more.

This is more a musical drama than an opera. There is that initial suspension of disbelief when the man in the skimpy shorts with the footy in his hand opens his mouth to sing. Yes, football and singing, and not an anthem in the wind. But it works – hooks you in from the start, even though you know your heartstrings are being fiddled.

*Different Fields* is adapted from an American production by director Jonathan Mill, featuring a god-fearing journo and the country fields of the hero's youth. Where are the paddocks, chooks or ute? Oh, why not Crown Casino instead of Vegas? But these are small quibbles, worth ignoring in favour of grabbing your team-coloured garb and getting along to the show.

Wave your scarf at the end!