

# What Is This Thing Called Love?

*Submitted by Brian Godfrey on Friday, 9th Mar 2012*

- Adelaide Fringe - Cabaret - music of Cole Porter - Professional Theatre - SINGular Productions

**TP Rating:**

**4 out of 5 stars**

4

**Date of Show:**

Sunday, 26th February 2012 (All day)

**Venue:**

The Butterfly House

Adelaide's SINGular Productions are known for their well done, different shows such as the award-winning *Different Fields* (an opera about football) and *It's A Dad Thing*, and now *What Is This Thing Called Love?* Which is a well done show, but not all that different.

The publicity states that the show is new in that it concentrates on the complicated relationship between Cole Porter and his wife and muse, Linda Lee Porter - but so did the films "Night And Day" and "De-Lovely".

What is fantastic about this version is the wonderful music of Mr. Porter (of course) and the two superb singers who perform it - Adam Goodburn and Deborah Caddy.

Goodburn and Caddy regale their audience with all the Porter classics and old favourites - accompanied by that magical musical maestro, Matthew Carey - such as "Anything Goes", "Night And Day", "Friendship", "De-lovely" and, of course, the titular "What Is This Thing Called Love?". In between, the couple narrate the Porters' life story and include anecdotes taken from various letters and quotes from others who knew them. With singers/performers the likes of Goodburn and Caddy, who are charming, witty and note-perfect, every number presented is a gem and a highlight in itself.

Direction by Sue Pole is simple and straightforward and lets the songs speak for themselves (as they should in this style of show), but also allows for some nice humour to be injected where needs be - and Pole's deeply moving ending is a beautiful piece of theatre.

It's slightly puzzling why an eighty-minute show requires an interval, but apart from that, this is a delightful, de-lovely salute to one of the modern world's greatest composers.