

Love Comes to Shove in Perfect Match

Why do people find the apparently perfect partner – and then try to change them?

That's the intriguing subject of Joe DiPietro and Jimmy Roberts' smash hit four-hander which is given a stunning SA debut at the adaptable State Opera Studio in slightly cabaret mode.

DiPietro's razor-sharp book and lyrics and Roberts' mischievous and occasionally poignant music have nailed the dating-and-mating game.

Director Jonathan Mills and the top quality quartet of Deborah Caddy, Adam Goodburn, Johanna Allen, Ben Rasheed, deliver an entertaining evening of sexual dysfunction and frustration.

The vignettes and snappy routines are well essayed, moving smoothly from one heartfelt disaster to the next emotional impasse.

Relationships are fertile ground for comedy and tragedy, and this satirical series of sketches, songs and general cries for help, hits the spot – hard.

Adam Goodburn has shed his Gandhi persona to lead the way in a variety of roles from the nerdy to the witty and wordy, using his voice and versatility to the full.

Ben Rasheed is especially memorable as a violent prisoner urging matrimony and a professional Jewish mourner looking for graveside love.

Deborah Caddy uses her superb soprano voice and range of characters in her search for love and satisfaction – her loud-mouthed tennis player is a riot and her dating video pure therapy. Johanna Allen has never been better and shines in the show-stopping *Always A Bridesmaid*, *The Marriage Tango* with Goodburn, and as the ancient object of Rasheed's receding affections in *I Can Live With That*.

Congratulations also to musical director and accompanist Nerissa Pearce and her virtuosos violinist Imants Larsens for keeping the pace up and the music memorable.

***I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* continues from Friday to Sunday**

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