
JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

MS Society of SA & NT Inc

Her Majesty's Theatre
Until January 22

Review by Hayley Horton

Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's first successful collaboration has been performed with a number of interpretations and visions.

While the MS Society have by no means created an original interpretation of this show (heavily borrowing from the video version), this production contains plenty of colour, pizzazz and star quality.

The biblical tale of Joseph brings a vast array of characters and well-known songs to the stage. Top-billed Tim Ferguson provides a show-stealing performance as the Elvis-esque Pharaoh and a welcomed original interpretation of the bad-tempered Potiphar. Ferguson has the ability to interact with the audience at just the right level to have them eating out of his palm.

Katie Underwood as the Narrator brings her pop-star qualities to the role although sometimes struggles with the demanding vocal range and often (whether as directed or her own interpretation) wanders from the storytelling nature of the role to a concert-like performance. Fortunately this does not detract too much from Underwood's overall appeal.

Yet again in an Adelaide show, the performers (in particular Underwood) are let down by abysmal sound operation making it difficult to hear the wordy lyrics telling the story. Late audio cues are inexcusable and the blend of sound levels desperately needs alteration with the band and booth singers often drowning out the performers on stage.

Thern Reynolds as Joseph is an asset to this production with an amazing voice that sends tingles down your spine. Reynolds' rendition of "Close Every Door" is a definite highlight of the show and coupled with classic looks and a faultless performance, he bears the weight of his demanding role with strength.

Equally impressive are the supporting amateur cast, who hopefully have benefited from performing with their celebrity counterparts. Joseph's 11 brothers ably provide comic slapstick and melodrama as well as entertaining renditions of the stand-out "One More Angel in Heaven" and "Those Canaan Days".

The children (en-mass and colorfully clad) give wonderfully angelic support, enhancing many of the more touching numbers with crisp and simplistic integration. Coupled with the ensemble cast who provide dynamic and visually pleasing performances, their dedication to this production is most evident.

It would be remiss not to mention the amazing costumes coordinated by Kate Anolack and Rosie Ferguson. Their attention to detail, colour coordination and style is of an immense standard, completing an appealing and entertaining show to be enjoyed by all the family.