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Reviews

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# Evita

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**THE FOLLOWING REVIEW WAS FOR THE RUN AT THE THEATRE ON THE BAY**

## YOURSOAPBOX OFFICIAL REVIEW: EVITA

Last night I was fortunate enough to see Pieter Toerien's production of the Andrew Lloyd Webber-Tim Rice musical Evita, currently on at Theatre on the Bay. Full of iconic musical numbers, this show requires little introduction. Simply put, it is the most beautiful, arresting piece of theatre you will see in Cape Town in 2010. Please. Do not miss out on seeing this show.

Angela Kilian was born for the role of Eva Peron. This is her second appearance as the strong, ambitious First Lady of Argentina. Kilian commands the stage with all the grace, poise, elegance and strength that this character demands. It sent shivers down my spine to watch her sing Don't Cry for me Argentina and

plea to her people in her gorgeous, white gown. She is a captivating actress. I felt as if I was standing there in Argentina; I was part of the crowd and my heart had surrendered to her cause.

Che (Kenneth Meyer) stood out for me. He provided good contrast to Kilian as the narrator – Eva's conscience. He injects charisma and dry humour into the role. Seeing the two characters face-off in Waltz for Che and Eva was very memorable.

Peron (James Borthwick) was every bit of the Argentinean general and Borthwick's portrayal was spot on, as was the Spanish accent. Anton Luitingh was the convincingly smooth and charming Magaldi and I loved his performance to the crowds of Argentina!

Lynn Thompson as Peron's mistress was one of the notable highlights with her performance of Another Suitcase in Another Hall. She is inspiring to watch and her voice superb.

The principals were supported by a talented and strong ensemble. The core was slick, polished and beautiful to listen to. They really helped bring the illusion of Evita's world home. The music as expected, was fantastic. It was a dream realized to see some of those numbers on stage and the local cast exceeded my high expectations.

I was apprehensive when I heard that it was being staged on the smaller Bay stage, but the effective use of a revolving stage and clever projection of crowd scenes, meant that the production lost absolutely none of its scale and grandeur. The lighting, audio-visuals and costumes all helped conjure up the historic landscape and combined with the cast, resulted in an incredibly moving production

Director Paul Warwick Griffin has ensured that Evita will seduce you and hold you in its grip until the very end. Take a few tissues and prepare to be transported off to a piece of Argentinean history.

- BRONWYN WILSON

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