

Absolutely magical concert from a polished performer

Three years ago I opened a review on a Laurika Rauch concert with an awful pun on the lady's German-origin name, something like "niemals Rauch ohne Feuer", in plain English "never smoke without fire". It's such a bad pun that it's worth repeating just to raise a groan, but also it really is very apt for a polished singer who is absolutely brimful of a burning and explosive vitality.

MUSIC . . . By DICK TURPIN

CONCERT: Laurika Rauch in Concert
VENUE: Civic Theatre, Roodepoort

and lyrics in the vein of various "Jacques van der Brels", and attractive and frequently very clever these songs tend to be.

Moulded as she is in the true tradition of continental "chanteuses", it would be difficult to find a songstress of greater flair and artistry to handle this genre than Laurika Rauch.

She is truly superb and it is hardly surprising that she was guided and helped into her present high professionalism, particularly in her English presentation, by Tauble Kushlick.

Guitarist Colin Drew accompanied dexterously

and sympathetically but his amplification (I think it was this) sometimes produced an unusually "tinny" sound which was odd and unattractive to my ears, although other ears may have reacted differently.

Young Pretoria University lecturer and concert pianist Wessel van Wyk, who studied under Sini van den Brom and Adolph Hallis and at the Vienna Hochschule fur Musik, proved to be an attractive and sensitive accompanist and here I am prompted to say a few words about the semi-bilingual programme notes.

A unilingual concert-goer such as an overseas visitor or recent immigrant could learn nothing about Van Wyk from the Afrikaans programme biography, and similarly a visitor from the "mees afgele Platteland" might have had difficulty in following other notes in English only, for I frequently give lifts to hitch-hiking servicemen who, presumably due to country schooling, have remarkably poor or almost non-existent English.

Incidentally, the State Theatre is also lazy in practising full bilingualism in its notes and I do believe it is incumbent upon theatre managements to offer truly "tweetalig" pro-

gramme information. A restaurant is quickly in trouble if its menu does not conform to the rule.

My only disappointment with this show was that despite the singer holding the stage for 1½ hours, the second half appeared short, and another encore in answer to the enthusiastic applause would obviously have been much appreciated. Probably a repeat of the extraordinarily popular "Kinders van die Wind" would have gone down very well.

Laurika Rauch's recordings are a delight, but to experience her beguiling and immensely sincere personal aura she must be seen. Certainly her live appearances are much too infrequent for her fans.