

Laurika was well worth waiting for

DIANE DE BEER

SHOW: Laurika Rauch in "Moontlikhede"

MUSICIANS: Didi Kriel (keyboards), Andrew Cleland (drums), Kai (bass), Mike Meiring (guitar)

VENUE: After Dark Restaurant

DATES: Until September 14

AFTER a busy 1990 Laurika Rauch has been absent from local stages . . . but the wait has been well worthwhile!

She has returned with a show doing what she does best, probably enjoys most and it shows. "Moontlikhede" showcases this magnificent singer doing just that — singing.

Having titled these two hours of song, "Moontlikhede", the possibilities are countless and the listener is handed a gift to open and explore in any number of ways. The selection of songs is eclectic but the Rauch repertoire has never been restricted as she has a marvellous ability to make any number her own. Whether she does an up-tempo Jim Croce or the emotive "Dry Land", she sings from her soul.

And with keyboard wizard Didi Kriel in command, many familiar Rauch melodies have been given a fresh approach.

Rauch's own composition of Boerneef's "Met Transistor Innie Hand" has been given a bluesy, sometimes jazzy rhythm which has transformed the song into something brand new. It's not better, simply different with an exciting novel interpretation giving the performer a chance to explore other possibilities.

On the whole, it is a quiet, gentle performance with Rauch offering a personal menu in truly individual style. Billy Joel's "And So It Goes" is done simply with only the piano as accompaniment giving it a melancholy yet magical mood while the latest Christopher Torr (her husband) song, a kind of lover's lament, "Stille Waters, Diepe Grond", is set to music which turns it into almost a lullaby.

"Moontlikhede" is pure Rauch. For Rauch groupies, there's "Kinders van die Wind", "Op Blouberg Se Strand" and "Stuur Groete Aan Mannetjies Roux" but there's a new slant, fresh titles, inventive backing — all contributing to a show which is simply sensational.

How good it is to have her back.