

Divas rule the SA stage

Plakboek

CAST: Laurika Rauch and Amanda Strydom

VENUE: Circus Maximus Theatre

DATES
Tonight and tomorrow (8.30pm), Sunday (3pm)

MAGDELÛ PREEZ

These days everybody is a diva. Every young female singer with a good voice – although that is also a matter of contention – can be a diva: Beyoncé, Christina, Mariah. The word has lost its true meaning – “a great or famous singer”, from the Latin for goddess.

Thank heaven there are still some real divas left: Laurika Rauch and Amanda Strydom. And

these two goddesses of Afrikaans music have joined forces in a new show. That's a whole lot of talent on one stage.

Entitled *Plakboek*, the show is a journey through almost three decades of Afrikaans music. The title is apt; it is a scrapbook of these two women's careers. Listening to the show, one realises just what an impressive array of hits Rauch and Strydom have garnered between them.

These songs have become such a part of the Afrikaans collective consciousness. When, for instance, Rauch launched into the haunting *Stuur Groete aan Mannetjies Roux*, the audience sang right along with her.

Plakboek was



IT'S A CABARET: Amanda Strydom at her best.

expertly put together, with a great selection of some of their most famous songs, like *Stille Waters*, *Hoor Hoe Brom die Wind* and *Kom Tog by die Punt*.

The show is a perfect combination of the different styles of the performers – Strydom's cabaret and Rauch's concerts. There's the familiarity and intimacy of the cabaret and the pizzazz and boisterousness of the concert.

The undoubted highlight of *Plakboek* is their rendition of their signature tunes – *Kinders van die Wind* and *Ek Loop die Pad* – in tandem. The blend was reminiscent of Judy

Garland and Barbra Streisand's *Get Happy/Happy Days Are Here Again* duet in 1963.

But one wonders about the venue's suitability. The theatre is huge; perhaps a smaller, more intimate venue would have been more suitable. Nevertheless, Rauch and Strydom utilise the stage expertly. The lighting effects were simple and effective.

Plakboek is infused with a sense of nostalgia. The songs hark back to an era in Afrikaans music when the lyrics actually made sense.

Rauch and Strydom deserve their reputations as divas. Their show is brilliant.



REAL DIVA: Afrikaans music icon Laurika Rauch.