

**Review: The Cher Show**

**By Dulcie Harrison**

***The Cher Show* at Theatre Royal Plymouth**

The show just blew me away!!

You will not want to miss out on this incredible show here at the Theatre Royal Plymouth

The stage was set as soon as you go into the auditorium with an intriguing set of hair pieces and you know right then and there, this show is going to be GLAM!

The show opens with dazzling lights and an amazing dance troop who switch up their roles and parts like shapeshifters throughout the scenes of the show.. They are not to be underestimated in any way shape or form. Their individual talent and all round abilities of both acting and dancing is just fantastic. They also help with setting the significant dates in the show which is useful to create a timeline.

The show is about Chers story into stardom, from the struggles of being a mixed race child facing prejudices and racism akin to the time through to meeting Sonny Bono and consequential difficulties and then further in a bid to make it in a mans world, reaching the dizzying heights of stardom as a single mother.

Young Cher (Babe) (1950s-60s) was played by the beautiful Jasmine Jules Andrews who was enchanting as she acted as a child then teenager when she met Sonny as an impressionable 16 year old. The acting of Sonny was really good, it showed how he did love her but soon the strive for fame sadly overshadowed what was really important, their marriage and child.

During the metamorphosis into an older Cher (Lady) (1970's) played by the powerful and stunning Danielle Steers, she managed to capture the infatuation Cher had with Sonny but also the fatigue she was experiencing by him working her so hard. Cher was beginning to find her voice and would be silenced so many times by what was expected of a woman in the 70's. It was amazing when she finally found her strength to say "No" it was actually a big turning point for her.

The detail in this show is AMAZING!

The more mature Cher (Star) was played by the gorgeous Debbie Kurup and with this came more unexpected twists and turns than what I heard people saying as they left, never knew Cher experienced. All three Cher's remain on stage most of the time, giving perspective of thoughts and memories from her younger or older self. It's an interesting arrangement but it really works! It also allows more time for those breathtaking costumes, which alone deserve a standing ovation! They are beautiful in every sense of the word. I think every single person in the theatre was in awe of the glittering masterpieces. They really are show stopping and the fantastic work of the lighting engineers really brought them to life in an array of diamond spectacularity!

I love the way the show is LGBTQ+ embracing, the dancers, often same sex dancing with each other, just makes it the norm for society to see and rightly so. Packed full of Cher's iconic songs, you can't help but sit with a massive smile on your face enjoying every second of the wonders in front of you and just wait until the end of the show where you can sing along and get up and boogie as you have the time of your life hearing "Do you believe in life after love" with full concert type atmosphere.

It really is a show stopper of a show, I have left it feeling such admiration for this woman who fought her way in a male dominated world to show she can do it, That her drive for success was driven by her talent and wanting to provide for her babies, her mum and just lead a balanced happy life.

What a woman, what a talent, what a show, Cher!