

Review: Bat Out Of Hell

By Dulcie Harrison

Bat Out Of Hell, Theatre Royal Plymouth

Our beloved Theatre Royal Plymouth hosts this unique, jaw dropping musical masterpiece *Bat Out Of Hell* and it is simply a MUST see. Watching this on the main stage has blown me away, I laughed, I cried, and I was captivated throughout!

The UK tour of “*Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical*” was written by Jim Steinman and is a loose retelling of the well known classic story “*Peter Pan*” set in a post-apocalyptic Manhattan (now named ‘*Obsidian*’). A group called “*The Lost*” never grow up due to genetic damage, leaving them frozen forever at the age of 18. The leader of the lost is Strat, played by the phenomenal Glenn Adamson. Glenn’s performance of Strat is filled with energy, power and thrill which draws the audience to his untamed, alluring bad boy character who falls in love with Raven, played by the brilliant Martha Kirby. Martha effortlessly shows ingénue Raven’s passion, beauty and longing rebellion.

Of course, no love story is complete without showing its difficulties and overcoming them. Strat leads a feral life while Raven has led a sheltered life – will they find their love is strong enough to conquer all?

Filled with well known, legendary songs- written and/ or sung by the legendary Meatloaf- interjected throughout the show that will have you tapping your knee and wanting to sing along with classics such as *Dead Ringer For Love*, *It’s All Coming Back To Me Now*, *Two Out Of Three Ain’t Bad*, *I’d Do Anything For Love*, among so many others, and of course the massive showstopper *Bat Out Of Hell* itself. Each song is performed with impeccable talent and with little dialogue, the story is led by the album, by the vision of these albums that will give you more of an understanding to these songs and that they don’t necessarily stand alone, but rather push their meaning further into our lives with the support of the other songs.

Praise must be given to the choreographer (Xena Gusthart) and set designer (Jon Bausor) because this was truly stunning and captivating to see. The whole cast were absolutely breathtaking with their performances and each brought an electric energy that fills the stage with a vision of perfection. The dance routines are mesmerising and flawless, performed with utmost stamina, energy and amazement.

The set design shows in true brilliance how the magic of theatre allows the two worlds to so smoothly transform into one another, the deep-end (Where the lost live) and Ravens bedroom in “*Falco Towers*” is connected through a window which is used for entering and leaving by the cast- the clever use of videography is also fantastic and so magical but I don’t want to ruin everything, it’s for you to have that experience first hand! and completed by sensational lighting design that has you enchanted from the start.

A great way to honour the memory of Meatloaf, it's over the top, in your face showstopping brilliant- a bit like the man himself. You will be able to get up, sing and dance while you have your phones in your hands recording the astonishing final showstopper! While it ends on a high, you will get the chance to let your hair down and have a blast- something you will be wanting to do from the opening scene. The standing ovation and roaring audience and buzzing atmosphere was quite an exciting experience! With everyone leaving smiling and dancing, book your tickets to experience this for yourself now, playing until Saturday 23rd July.