Theatre Royal Plymouth

Bat Out Of Hell

Audio described performance

 Saturday  May 17th  2025 @  2.30p.m

Touch Tour @ 1.30p.m.

Act 1

Hello  and welcome to this electrifying rock experience  performance of ***BAT OUT OF HELL*** written by Jim Steinman  and Michael Lee Aday aka Meat Loaf, and directed by Jay Scheib.

This is not the first time  rock songs have been made into a musical, except this was different. It had been  Jim  Steinman’s  original idea to use the music to update JM Barrie’s Peter Pan and call it Neverland, but JM Barrie was not sold on the idea, however the songs survived.His lawyer David Sonenberg(one of the producers of the show) encouraged him to abandon the Peter Pan theme and look to Meat Loaf’s original songs and write some more. Jim’s vision was Wagner based but it was originally regarded as too theatrical  so he borrowed 35,000 dollars and brought in two musicians from Bruce Springsteen’s E Street  band  ( keyboardist Roy Bittan and Drummer Max Weinberg).Together, they created the high drama wall of sound.

It was a hard road to acceptance but a screening on the Old Grey Whistle Test  in 1977, built a UK fan base, while in Canada, a leading radio station played it frequently. 40 years later and Steinman’s original vision has been realised. At the end of 2015, a 3 week  development lab in New York was overseen with Andrew Polac playing Strat, and the full production premiered in Manchester in 2017.

There are still elements of  Barrie’s 1904  Peter Pan  emulating the Lost Boys as  the Lost and the Fairy Tinkerbell has become Steinman’s Tink.

The songs are from the ***Bat out of Hell*** album and ***Bat out of Hell : Back into Hell*** with two new songs written by Steinman, **What Part Of My Body Hurts** **The Most**  and  **Not Allowed To Love.**

Set in neither the past  nor present, ***BAT OUT OF HELL*** is set in the ruins of Osibian a ciity that might have been Manhattan but has drifted out to sea. The FALCOS live in a partially sunken high rise above Falco Square , while the LOST hide in the Deep End of the subway tunnels near the ruins of the Natural History Museum. The Militia is lead by Falco in trying to wipe out The LOST. This is a story loosely based on Peter Pan where the kingdom of Neverland keeps Strat  and the  Lost Boys young, , but there is conflict between the two factions, the LOST led by Strat  and the MILITIA  led by Falco, which makes it difficult  for the young lovers, Strat and Raven  as they belong to the different factions,  a nod to  the story of Romeo and Juliet?

***BAT OUT OF HELL*** begins on the eve of Raven’s 18th birthday. Rebellion is in the air and STRAT races through the night to collide with RAVEN and it is love at first sight. These two young lovers  struggle to stay together as do the parents.

My name is Pauline, your describer for the whole show. It will run for 2 hours including a 20 min interval. Act 1 is 57 minutes long and . Act 2 is  approximately   83 mins long.  There are 20 scenes, with 22 songs,  all set in a strange dark  land of steps  and  tunnels and punctuated with Meat Loaf’s songs which include **I’d Do Anything For Love(But I Wont Do That) Paradise By The Dashboard Light,Two Out Of Three Ain’t Bad, Dead Ringer For Love and of course, Bat Out Of Hell.**

**There will be strobe lighting, flashing lights, loud music, violence,  name calling, mild sexual activity, smoke,haze and gunfire.**

The set remains static throughout the show being constructed on a v with a  wide mouthed  circular tunnel on the left with steps on  the left  leading to its top. A metal ladder is leaning against the right.  On the right, forming the other side of the v  is a platform housing a bed side on, behind which are double doors. There are   shelves and a small trolley and tall cupboard  on the far right. This is Raven’s  bedroom and the Falco’s living Area. There are two large screens, one above the orchestra with a scaffolding structure behind  and the other above the Falco’s living area.  The left hand one displays the show title in silver  gothic style lettering with psychedelic bats flying behind. The bats  are also  on the right hand screen. As the show progresses, a mobile cameraman projects the action onto both screens and ‘scenery’ is added appropriate to the action.

On the main floor space on the right  is a pile of tyres and general bits and pieces. On the right is a large flat  rock.

The eight strong  orchestra is led by Iesyn Griffiths  and they are  located on stage above the mouth of the tunnel and a guitarist is tucked away on the Falco’s platform.

We meet Raven  in Falco Square in a shaft of light ,  a slight long  black  haired girl of 18 dressed in   ragged denim  shorts, black t shirt with sequinned sleeves and Doc Marten style boots. She relates an incident with her Dad Falco before we meet Strat and the  Lost protesting in the Square against Falco and his militia which turns  into a riot. Raven meets Strat for the first time, he is dressed in a red sleeveless t shirt with leather trousers with a red stripe  down the seams.The song **All Revved Up/Wasted Youth** plays as the riot plays out.

Raven is listening to her radio in her bedroom  and briefly sees Strat at her window just before Sloane  brings in  a present. She is   slim , in a long multi coloured   housecoat over a short turquoise nightie. She has  long flaming red hair.

The Lost are  in  the Deep End hideout , dressed in a motley mix of ragged  clothes, denim and  leather  in multi colours with sequins. Suspenders and stockings  feature for some of  the girls under short skirts or shorts. Chains adorn the costumes.[An](http://yellows.an) instrumental **Out Of The Frying Pan** can  be heard before it is sung by Strat and The Lost.

Zahara and Jagwire are outside Falco Towers and they have a discussion about loving each other and sing **Two Out Of Three Aint bad.**

A long  table is pushed on through the tunnel mouth, draped in a cloth hung with swags of cloth and laden with  a cake  and presents.  5 liveried servants accompany them. All have bolero style jackets, tailored trousers , pink cumberbunds and 70 style mullet hairstyles.

Raven in  a black party dress  later runs from the room leaving Falco  in a white suit edged with black  and Sloane in a  sequinned party dress  reminiscing about their romance after the cloth is pulled off the table to reveal a  blue convertible car and we are transported to the Drive in movie of many years ago. They sing Paradise By The Dashboard as the memories reenact and they  become  very sensual with clothes removed. The servants also strip down to their pants.

Raven is on her bed wearing a pink silky camisole,  when Strat enters. They become close and sing **Making Love Out Of Nothing** but they are interrupted by Zahara.  Falco and the militia search the bedroom  and **Bat Out Of Hell** is sung as Strat and Raven flee on Strat’s Chopper style motorbike with high handle bars and high padded  back rest,( known as a  cissy bar as nervous pillion passengers cling to the bars.) Raven dismounts and leaves  and Strat crashes the bike as  this Act comes to a dramatic close.

Cast

Strat……………………………Glen Adamson. Leader of the Lost

Raven………………………….Katie Tomkinson. Teenage daughter of Sloane and Falco

Sloane…………………………Sharon Sexton. Wife to Falco

Falco…………………………..Rob Fowler. Sloane’s Husband, insecure and angry.

Zahara…………………………Georgia Bradshaw . Nanny to the FALCO  family.

Tink…………………………….Carla Bertran.   13 year old. Sibling to STRAT

Jagwire…………………………Ryan Carter. LOST member

Valkyrie…………………………Carly Burns. LOST member

Ledoux…………………………Luke Street.  LOST member

Militia………………………The MILITIA are a ruthless gang of ‘soldiers’ who work for FALCO under the guise of law enforcement.

LOST………………………The LOST are a gang of teenagers led by STRAT currently living in abandoned subway tunnels below the ruins of the Natural History Museum.

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Act 2

Welcome back to Act 2. The title is back  on the left hand screen and the bats are flying on the right.

We left Strat at the bottom of a cliff and Sloane is pacing back and forth across the floor in a blue knee length dress and  glittery heeled high heels. Falco joins her as  does  Zahara in her nurse’s uniform  clutching Strat’s bloodied t-shirt. They both  tell Raven the bad  news.

 Raven is on her own  in her bedroom clutching her guitar,  wearing Strat’s red t shirt over her denim shorts. She sings  **Heaven Can Wait**.  Sloane joins her  to commiserate ,dressed in a purple leather skirt and blue  frilled blouse.

There is a blue haze around the Deep end  tunnels.and the Lost are looking for Strat  when Tink comes flying in on her chopper bike  to tell them the bad news. Jagwire  and Valkyrie sing **Objects In The Rear View Mirror** as the Lost sit and stand around in groups mourning Strat.

Zahara joins Raven   in her  bedroom and persuades Raven to go with her to Deep End  before the jealous Tink  overhears  and goes into a jealous  rage after they have left.

It is misty and Raven and Zahara approach a sleeping Strat on a  mattress on the left. He is in black trousers with sequinned seams and a blue shiny jacket . They have been followed by a jealous Tink but Zahara stops her and  whisks her away to leave the lovers together. Strat sings **For Crying Out Loud**

Zahara is packing a bag for Raven when she is surprised by Falco who attacks her but she is saved by Sloane but he turns on her as Zahara fires a gun  she found in the room, in his direction. They escape

Strat and Raven are lying on an old battered mattress. There is blue haze in the tunnel behind them. The Lost and Tink find them and there is a joyous celebration with the song **You Took The Words Right Out Of My Mouth.** Raven briefly leaves and comes back dressed in a short white wedding dress clutching  a bouquet of red roses. Sloane joins them and   finally meets Strat.

Strat and Raven become passionate not realising they are being watched by Tink who rants at them before running off.

Falco  pushes on a wheeled chest and he realises Sloane is leaving  and is looking at a photo album before extracting one and  Sloane arrives in a knee length mauve dress and Falco is in a purple  shirt and trousers. They sing  **What part of my body hurts the most.** She  finally leaves and Tink pops up out of the trunk  to speak to Falco who levels a gun at her.

At Deep End The celebration continues. The whole place is awash with a purple haze.Strat and Raven watch the Lost as they dance.Members of the Lost  sing **Dead Ringer For Love** whilst Strat and Raven watch with their backs to us.

 All goes black before Falco and the militia burst in with Tink held by Falco. Tink tries to escape but is hurt. Strat sings **Rock And Roll Dreams Come Through .** Tink is tended to on top of the tunnel  after Strat  angrily  tells Raven to leave.

  Raven is back  in her bedroom  clutching a guitar when Falco tries to make amends but to no avail.

 It is  6 months later and Sloane is  wandering, trying to remember when she was young. She is in a blue shiny coat.  Strat finds Raven and they sing **It’s All Coming Back To Me** before first Sloane finds them then Falco, dressed in  a red  leather jacket. All is forgiven but not without some of the Lost trying to kill Falco  but Tink intervenes.  Raven realises that Strat will remain young whilst she will age and  they sing, **I’d Do Anything For Love (But I Won’t Do That)** Sloane joins them in a black thigh split knee length dress with diamante shoulders and silver platform ankle  boots. The space is full of joy and dancing.

THE END

The next audio described show for the blind and the  VIP  will be **Only Fools And Horses** on Saturday May 24th @ 2.30p.m preceded by a touch tour at 1.30p.m.   It will be captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing  on Thursday May 22nd at 7.30p.m.