



Picture: Matto Lucas

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LEATHER LUNGS: HIGHER LOVE CABARET REVIEW – GENUINE DRAG QUEEN ELEVATES SHOW

The likable authenticity of Leather Lungs brings something more to this late night fare



It's all coming back to them now, sings likeable Kiwi-Aussie drag queen Leather Lungs (alter ego of Jay Chasland), covering Celine Dion's hit in a thick bogan accent, while giving the mic stand some deeply suggestive strokes. We're warned to brace ourselves for 'trauma dumping', before Leather Lungs lets rip under House Of Oz's shimmering disco ball with impassioned versions of Queen, Prince and Aretha songs.



Picture: Matto Lucas

There's lots of saucy leg splaying and sassy crowd asides as we hear of romantic run-ins with a dangerous criminal, sexy dentist and abusive narcissist. If it becomes blurred where the dialled-up drama is fiction or truth, what's clear tonight is that Leather Lungs has a genuinely sore throat and is singing in pain. Their sincere gratitude as the crowd howls with laughter and cheers loudly reveal an authenticity that elevates the camp showtunes, life lessons and savage quips above the cabaret act, and into a sweet, 3D person. Fun singalongs and innuendos galore from a grafter in stilettos.

House Of Oz, until 27 August, 9.30pm.

THE
LIST

Review: Leather Lungs

A colourful symphony of resilience and melody



CABARET REVIEW (EDINBURGH)



Leather Lungs
Photo by Matto Lucas

By Veronica Finlay

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Kiwi-Australian drag queen Jason Chasland, aka Leather Lungs, brings their 50-minute set of powerhouse anthems to the House of Oz, in a colourful explosion of music and comedy. Higher Love is a celebration of survival and self-love, by a performer who tackles adversity with humour.

The average male singing voice has the range of two octaves. With a voice spanning four, Chasland, self-proclaimed 'master of falsetto and stiletto', knows they can sing and have created a show that relies heavily on their voice. Higher Love sees them belt out renditions of songs by ABBA, Whitney Houston and Queen, using them to illustrate significant events and relationships in their life. They tell the audience in brief snippets about an abusive relationship they eventually got out of, but they prefer to let the music do the talking and they don't want your pity. They're here to reclaim their life through song and invite us all to sing along.

Chasland successfully connects with the audience, creating an inclusive atmosphere with banter and jokes, and they seem genuinely moved by the response they get, despite their voice not being the best tonight. This is possibly due to the jetlag they mention more than once and it results in the show being somewhat lacklustre at points, but it's fun and uplifting nonetheless, and Chasland's voice is still twice as good as the average male's.