



David Gauci and Davine Productions
Beautiful, The Carole King Musical

Reviewed by Peter Burdon, The Advertiser. July 10, 2021

The indefatigable David Gauci and his Davine Productions delivered a sold-out season of the hugely successful *Beautiful, The Carole King Musical* in the 2020 Fringe.

Its return season for 2021 has already repeated the success, sold out before opening. Those who've secured a ticket will leave the Star Theatres with broad smiles and toes tapping, for *Beautiful* is quite the triumph.

This is almost entirely down to Jemma McCulloch in the leading role. UK-trained, and with serious music theatre credits to her name, she's a blessing to the Adelaide music scene.

McCulloch carries the show and is hardly offstage for the packed two-and-a-half plus hours.

She's ably supported in the three key musical roles by Trevor Anderson (King's husband Gerry Goffin), Maya Miller (Cynthia Weil) and Joshua Kerr (Barry Mann). All have voices of character and style, and decent acting chops to boot.

The large supporting cast is unfailingly tuneful, if occasionally vocally underpowered, but the musical support from Peter Johns and an excellent local band – the 12-piece Broadway orchestration, thanks very much – is both stylish and helpful.

Many hands have made the work appear light, but that belies the extraordinary effort that goes into a production of this scale.

Thirty-two scenes, each and every one with its own music, let alone set and costume changes, and not a cossie repeated as we traverse the booming '50s and the swinging '60s.

Gauci has yet another hit on his hands. His commitment and determination serve the community well, and we are lucky to have him.