

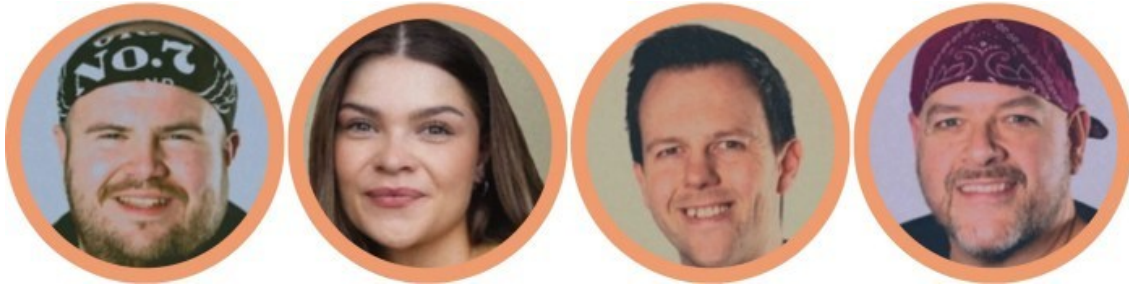


By
Faith Suronku-Lindsay (she/her)

Fun, flirty and full of laughs. Croft House Theatre Company's production of *Rock of Ages* at the Lyceum left little to the imagination, and yet the audience wanted more. *Rock of Ages* is beloved across generations and that was certainly reflected throughout the audience. From the feel-good 80s anthems to the comedic narration, there is something for everyone. With the added pressure of having to contend with the star studded 2012 film adaptation, Croft pulled out all the stops to create a beautifully captivating show from start to finish.

From the moment Lonny (played by Tom Fox-Owens) stepped on stage, the audience were catapulted into the essence of drug-fueled and rock-infused Los Angeles of the past. Fox-Owens guided and carried the audience through the show effortlessly, encouraging several eruptions of laughter from the seats above.

It would be questionable not to mention, and give high praise, to the intricacies of the set. A revolving door, live onstage band (who sounded incredible throughout) and various trips up the stage right steps, encouraged each scene to flow seamlessly and without error. A massive round of applause to all those behind the scenes, who weren't onstage to receive it on the night! The energy of lead performers Grace Hadabora and Adam Walker (in the roles of Sherrie and Drew, respectfully), made it difficult to comprehend this not being a professional production. The pure talent in storytelling and the complimenting of their voices in singing alongside each other added depth and emotion to a show better well-known for its raunchy comedy.



From left to right ~ Tom Fox-Owens as Lonny, Grace Hadabora as Sherrie, Adam Walker as Drew & Mark Holmes as Dennis Dupree.

The entire cast and ensemble was consistent and conveyed a real sense of togetherness. A tight-knit and supportive atmosphere amongst the company shone through in this show. Making us all want to be regulars at The Bourbon Room! The leadership of Dennis Dupree (played by Mark Holmes) was conveyed without complication, with various moments of smart wit and culminating with the ultimate stunt at the end (go and see the show for that to be revealed...)

The strong and sexy choreography of Claire Harriot did not go unnoticed. Led onstage by Alice Mackenzie, who you can't help but be drawn to, oozing strength and poise the whole way through. Perhaps considered minor in character, but certainly not minor in performance were Phill Brownhill, Matt Bevan and Tara Kulbatski in the roles of Hertz, Franz and Regina. With faultless German accents, Brownhill and Bevan conveyed the intricacies of a complex father-son dynamic, balanced with perfect comedic timing. Kulbatski's fiery passion and soulful voice made her a joy to watch!



Can't fight the feeling that you should watch this show? Be sure to catch the last few performances!

A real pride of Sheffield theatre!

Rating: ★★★★★