

Glam Adelaide Fringe Review: Oysters 5 STARS



Heinrich von Herzogenberg, composer and conductor, is hosting a party to celebrate the first performance of Johannes Brahms' violin concerto: among the guests are Eduard Hanslick, the critic; Josef Joachim, violinist; Fritz Simrock, Brahms' music publisher; and Clara Schumann, composer, pianist and widow of Robert Schumann. An illustrious list.

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Apart from Clara who is played by Steffani Rossi, Neil Salvage and Nicholas Collett, who are also the writers of this clever piece, play all the distinguished gentlemen. Neil Salvage looks the part as Brahms, but changes completely to play Fritz Simrock. He is also Fritz the butler in the opening scene; three completely different characters all with interesting interactions with the three characters brought to life by Nicholas Collett.

Collett plays the insecure Heinrich, the host, and Josef Joachim, who is convinced that Brahms is having an affair with his wife. He changes completely to give us Eduard Hanslick the critic with a vicious tongue. The ease and polish with which these two actors change and interact is delightful to watch. Both are well known in the UK and have much experience and their reputation is growing here.

These two are joined by Stefani Rossi known to Adelaide audiences for many fine performances, this time playing Clara a widowed pianist who is restricted by her arthritis making her bitter. Her very fine costume from England is supplied by Maddie Sinclair. The fourth member of the ensemble is Ahram Min, playing the violin and adding her reactions to the story along with some of Brahms music.

The small stage in the Studio at the Bakehouse is perfect for this production, giving an intimate feel, and lighting by Stephen Dean was just enough.

By [Fran Edwards](#) on Feb 21, 201
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Presented by Oyster Creatives