

---

## Theatre Review

# Opera Soufflé

### Ambitious Concoction

If revenge is a dish best served cold then soufflé is a dish best served by confident cooks with the ability to make their confection rise to the occasion. Adding opera to the ingredients should produce an ambitious concoction to satisfy the appetite of even the most jaded palate. Louise Woodgate and Anna Pelly are two sopranos who have had the talent and the wit to invent a completely new form of entertainment which successfully combines intimate cabaret with grand opera.

### Original Interpretation

They take classic story lines from famous operas and then sing and act out these dramas using well-known arias with their own modern translations. The receptive audience at The New Beaconsfield Hall on 26<sup>th</sup> September took these two very attractive performers to their hearts: some lucky ones actually took them to their laps as they roamed excitingly around the floor. At one stage Louise made her exit from the Hall on a scooter to exemplify their rejection of hide-bound operatic traditions.



### Darling Divas

This does not mean that Louise and Anna lack the musical ability to perform the most demanding of arias as these two brilliant artistes can sing with the best of them. However, they also have the style and the timing to include many moments of comedy as well as some

marvellously sensual movements.

### A Gourmet Treat

These 'Darling Divas' from Oxfordshire were a delight from beginning (when we didn't really know what to expect) to end (when the rapturous and well-deserved reception produced such a warm cosy glow amongst the audience). Louise and Anna have already appeared at many prestigious events and their originality should ensure that they make an even greater impression on the entertainment world.

Opera Soufflé is such an apt name and these two dishes are worthy of a place on any gourmet's ideal menu: they are light and fluffy but immensely satisfying. Bravo!

**John Drew**