

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 Review – Soweto Afro Pop Opera ****



Photograph: Marion Smith

Among the plethora of big names at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe are some little golden nuggets of entertainment from those whose name may not be immediately recognisable to some.

Soweto Afro Pop Opera are back in town following on from last year's visit and although their show this year has reduced somewhat in size, it is still very enjoyable. The 2015 version has just three young men from Soweto but their talents showcase light opera and modern popular music as well as traditional South African music which had their audience clapping and foot-tapping enthusiastically.

The trio aren't short on humour either and their interaction with their small but appreciative audience was warmly received. Although the talented threesome had to rely on backing tracks as their musical accompaniment, their version of 'Somewhere There's a Place For Us' from the musical West Side Story and 'There's Music in the Air' by Soweto-born jazz singer Letta Mbulu were excellent.

Soweto Afro Pop Opera are steadily building a reputation for musical excellence and versatility. Their wide-ranging repertoire is aimed at culturally bridging the UK and South Africa – and they are succeeding. My only minor gripe is that the show isn't long enough and the fact there were fewer than 100 people watching such talent was a tad disappointing.

Their show at Chambers Street in Edinburgh (just off the Bridges, so it's easily accessible) starts at 5.00pm and finishes before 6.00pm. So, if you're heading to another later gig, why not pop in and see

this splendid family show. You'll be glad you did.

Edinburgh Reporter rating ****

[Ticket information](#)