

STAR OF 'MAMMA MIA'
Coming in October for 3 shows only!

Ali Harper in
**LEGENDARY
DIVAS**

*"Loud applause for this generously
gifted actress, with an
all-enveloping voice that can take
us with her no matter what she
sings, is a further extension of the
celebration of song that Ali offers!"
Lindsay Clark, Theatreview 2015*

Shirley, Dusty, Barbra, Judy, Vera, Doris, Peggy,
Dolly, Edith and many more...

Clarence St Theatre
Friday, 16th October 7:30pm
Saturday, 17th October 2pm & 7:30pm

For more details visit: www.aliharper.com
www.hamiltonoperaticsociety.co.nz

Quiet please there's a *lady* on the stage...

Ali Harper celebrates the
LEGENDARY DIVAS we all grew up with.

The *star* of 'Mamma Mia', 'Bombshells' and 'Blood Brothers' will honour these women and their songs, up close and personal.

"Ms Harper lets fly with a truly knockout performance... she has the audience at her feet and many rightly rise to their feet cheering at the end."
Theatreview, 2013.

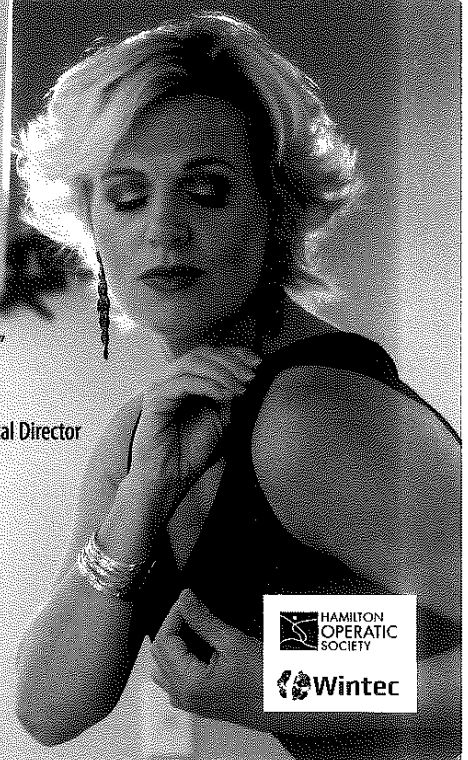
Join the *divas* with an equally legendary band led by Ali's Musical Director
David Sidwell.

"Ali Harper lights up every room she enters, owns every stage she steps upon and steals every heart that hears her sing." New York 2013.

BOOK NOW

Clarence St Theatre, Clarence Street, Hamilton
Ticketek.co.nz Ph. 0800 Ticketek (842 538)

www.aliharper.com www.hamiltonoperaticsociety.co.nz



FLAGSTAFF

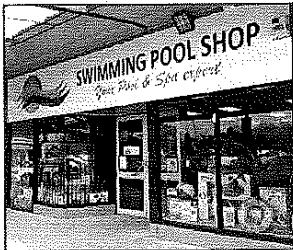
Swimming Pool Shop is a local family-owned business since 1990. It is a one-stop shop for swimming and spa pools providing all servicing, repairs and maintenance required for swimming and spa pools.

The staff at Swimming Pool Shop believe in providing a quality service at an affordable price and ensure quality through trained and qualified staff as well as supplying quality products.

They are the Waikato agents for Barrier Reef fibreglass pools, Paramount vinyl pools and Trueform spa pools. They are also the platinum-accredited Blogoard retailer supplying the top quality purpose-designed chemicals for pools and spas and are the only ones with non-dangerous goods classification.

Swimming Pool Shop offers free in-shop computerised water analysis with printed water treatment instructions and also has service technicians providing poolside treatment from a basic test and adjust to a full valet service. Their technicians are also fully trained in repair and maintenance of all equipment from pumps and filter to leak detection and repairs as well as any other equipment.

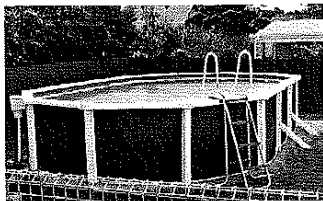
They also offer a pre purchase inspection report service as well as quotes for supply of new pools and pool damage repair often covered by your home insurance. At all times they work to provide the best service at the best price.



SWIMMING POOL SHOP

Your Pool and Spa Experts

**BUY NOW FOR SUMMER
DIY Complete Pool Packages**



- Proudly NZ made & designed for DIY installation
- A Pool for all budgets - 7 different sizes available
- Includes pump, filter, ladder, cleaning equipment
- Supplied with full installation manual and DVD

POOL SERVICING - from \$29.90

- Poolside balance & Valet, Green pool treatment
- Regular servicing and maintenance
- FREE in-store water testing • Expert advice...

We do it ALL!

Call us today to book - 07 854-6780

1158 River Road North, Hamilton
www.swimmingpoolshop.co.nz



Ali Harper.

Performance perfect

Divas Review

WHAT: Ali Harper in *Legendary Divas*
WHERE: Clarence Street Theatre, Hamilton
WHEN: October 16-17
REVIEWER: Steve Scott

Singer and entertainer Ali Harper is a very clever and imaginative artist. She also possesses a rich, powerful and controlled vocal.

Along with local musical director-pianist David Sidwell and his cracking eight-piece band, last Friday's opening night of *Legendary Divas* proved Ali Harper as the consummate and professional artist.

Indeed it could have been an easy win-over for Harper to just sing a host of memorable tunes from legendary divas including Shirley Bassey, Peggy Lee and Doris Day. However, she engaged the audience with interesting reflections and anecdotes on her chosen singers — with

humour thrown in — to balance out her act and it flowed wonderfully.

Beginning with a melodic medley of *Baby Love, Ain't No Mountain High Enough* and *Stop! In the Name of Love*, it wasn't long before her powerful, rich tone fuelled a top rendition of Ethel Merman's *There's No Business Like Show Business*. She then glided beautifully atop of Sidwell's delicate reading of Doris Day's *It's Magic*. For poignancy, Judy Collins' hit *Send In The Clowns* connected to the hearts of one and all.

And proving there's fun to be had, her 80s stint — *Flashdance* and *Total Eclipse of the Heart* — had Harper almost providing one chap in the front row with a lap dance while later requesting another man to help her on stage; she and he bought the house down.

From her dramatic James Bond theme hits (*Goldfinger* and *Moonraker*) and a soaring Edith Piaf dedication to owning Carol King's consummate (*You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman*), Ali Harper received a standing ovation and proved why she is so well respected, talented and professional.

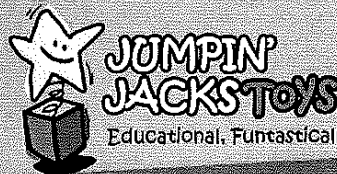


729 Grey Street, Claudelands, Hamilton 3216

Exceptional quality care & education

- A hidden gem in Claudelands, 3 minutes from the CBD, that offers quality care and education for Babies and Toddlers with wonderful amenities in a cosy home-like setting
- Children 2-5 years in the large Villa with a marvellous playground; excellent educational programme & equipment
- Fully qualified & registered staff
- Nappies and meals provided

Phone 07 855 0656 • Email citylimits@xtra.co.nz
www.citylimits.co.nz



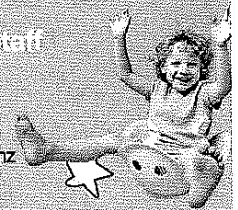
JUMPIN' JACKS TOYS
 Educational. Funtastical!



Educational and Fun Toys, Competitive Prices

- ★ Quality Brands ★ Friendly Staff
- ★ Stroller Friendly Layout

314 Grey Street, Hamilton East
 Call (07) 858 2491 Email info@jumpinjackso.co.nz
www.jumpinjackso.co.nz



A VOICE AND STAMINA TO BE MARVELLED AT

LEGENDARY DIVAS

Ali Harper

Musical directors: Richard Marrett (Christchurch); David Sidwell (Hamilton +)

at Clarence Street Theatre, Hamilton

From 16 Oct 2015 to 17 Oct 2015

Reviewed by Gail Pittaway, 17 Oct 2015

What great women they were and still are: Dianna Ross, Judy Garland, Dusty Springfield, Peggy Lee, Barbara Streisand. Like the old party game where we have to remember objects after they are flashed in front of us on a tray, Ali Harper's ebullient switch between these legends of the stage and disc is mind boggling.

Her energy is phenomenal, while her warmth and ability to work with the band and to the audience is delectable. She is unafraid to break down the wall and come out into the audience or invite a male victim up to join with her in a fast-paced dance medley game of 'Guess the Divas'. She is so glamorous in her slinky gowns and golden hair that the men certainly aren't complaining and, sign of the true Diva, even the women think she's gorgeous!

Harper opens the show with a medley of Motown numbers which leaves the audience fully informed of her powerful voice. But this is tempered with later softer numbers: Judy Garland in swing mode, Edith Piaf mourning her lover Marcel Cerdan in the spine tingling 'Hymn to Love' and the song which made divas of Elaine Paige and even Madonna, 'Don't Cry For Me Argentina'.

With an ability to capture but not parody Streisand's slightly nasal tone, Julie Andrews' immaculate diction, Merman's hint of metal, and Janis Joplin's or Carole King's bluesy edge, virtually every song is a show stopper. But, gloriously, the show goes on!

By half-time we are marvelling at her voice and stamina. But the second half is even gutsier, opening with a belting, melting tribute to Shirley Bassey.

Harper's speaking voice is soft and gentle, also easy on the ear, and she intersperses brackets of numbers with snatches of information, gossip and myth; after all, no evening celebrating *Legendary Divas* should go without some of the legends.

It's great to learn new stories – the name changes, the desperation to be loved and recognised, or about who beat whom to which role (*My Fair Lady*: the film role of Eliza Doolittle being played by Audrey Hepburn, chosen over Julie Andrews who played it on Broadway, only to have Hepburn's voice, carefully coached for the movie, dubbed by Marni Nixon).

And some of the old stories: Maria Callas' legendary tapeworm, the need for affirmation and the all-too-often decline into booze and drugs; here the list of names too numerous to mention.

Harper is supported on stage by an eight-man band led by the show's musical director, David Sidwell. Relaxed and in his element, he parries and parties on stage with the leading lady from behind the grand piano, whose ivories are well and truly tickled, stroked and given a jolly good hiding. It's a joy to see such mutual pleasure in the music; the ladies and their legends shared between singer and musicians.

Some of the business of the show business atmosphere is made by intricate and interesting lighting; roving spots, back lights, solo spots and drifts of blue or red haze colouring the words so often sung in dark cabarets. It's a memorable night of great music and song from a New Zealand legend, Ali Harper.

For more production details, click on the title above. Go to [Home](#) page to see other Reviews, recent Comments and Forum postings (under Chat Back), and News.