

Heroes, Heroines and Villains, St Andrew's and St George's West, **Operation Adelmo**, New Town Theatre, Turandot, New Town Theatre, Deconstructing Opera's Heroes

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...American baritone Adelmo Guidarelli arrives on-stage with the cheery greeting he's aware "that everyone hates opera", then explains that he has ways of showing us how user-friendly the artform is. I doubt many opera-haters would crowd in to see a guy tagged The Clown Prince of Opera: but if any did, they would discover that as well as having a fine voice, Adelmo has a sassy sense of humour.

Operation Adelmo hits its stride when Guidarelli demonstrates how opera has been pillaged by a mainstream pop culture in search of good tunes. Everyone from Bugs Bunny to Elvis has plundered its arias. The whole operation is slick, funny and powered by Guidarelli's determination to entertain. There's even some audience participation though he's almost upstaged – if that's possible – by his glamorous assistant Miss Ruby who uses the singalong prompt cards for some hilariously direct communications of her own.

...Operation Adelmo runs until August 28.