

*August 12, 2008*

**By Harry Forbes**

If there's a prize for performing under intolerable circumstances, **Adelmo Guidarelli**, a good legit baritone, gets it. In an inhospitable tent dubbed the Deluxe, he persevered with his small-scale vaudeville oblivious to the amplified thumping intruding from two sides of a space in serious need of soundproofing.

His amiable, intentionally hokey party piece endeavors to show how pop culture has "robbed and pillaged" opera, providing fodder for Elvis, Allan Sherman, and Andrew Lloyd Webber. Guidarelli starts an aria and then segues into its jukebox incarnation. There's also magic, puppetry, **Gilbert and Sullivan**, and Gershwin for good measure. Adept at crossover, camp, impersonation, ukulele, and kazoo, the game Guidarelli is assisted by Ruby Laurance, his no-nonsense stage manager who morphs into a red-gowned siren.

Written by Mike Wills, who also provided songs in collaboration with Peter Saxe, there's much silliness with props. While Guidarelli changes, excellent accompanist David Maiullo fills with some graceful old-time tunes.