



Sharp wit hits notes

This master of song and comedy offers a wonderful balancing act between the two

"I'M IN a cage," howls Tim Minchin, the singer-song-writer comic, as he grips the bars of a cage surrounded by a swirling white mist.

His hair is tousled, back-combed and meticulously matted and his feet are bare. Minchin's use of black eye liner is as excessive as his relentless probing battle with society's no-go zones.

Nothing is sacred. Minchin is a sight hound for hypocrisy. The tongue-twisting lyrics of his gritty hymns targeting taboos are channelled in a deadpan voice and the lyrics cut even deeper because of it.

Religion in *The Pope*, bigotry in *Prejudice* and double standards of parenting in *Lullaby* are bombed to smithereens. In between the singing, a tidal wave of expletives propels Minchin's rants.

Steve Martin, Jack Black and closer to home the Kransky Sisters all use music to good effect but it's a tough combo as instrumental skill must equal comic flair.

Minchin easily passes muster and he could be the first to tease the conservatism of orchestras across the globe.

Screaming "free jazz", the classically geared players dive willingly into heady improvisational bursts.

Under the direction of Iain Grandage, the QSO added gravitas and sparkle to the whistlestop romp through rap, funk, a Whittlams' nuanced pop and rock 'n' roll territories of Minchin's tuneful spoofs.

Tim Minchin Versus The Queensland Symphony Orchestra - Round II

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
Reviewed: January 28
Reviewer: Gillian Bramley-Moore

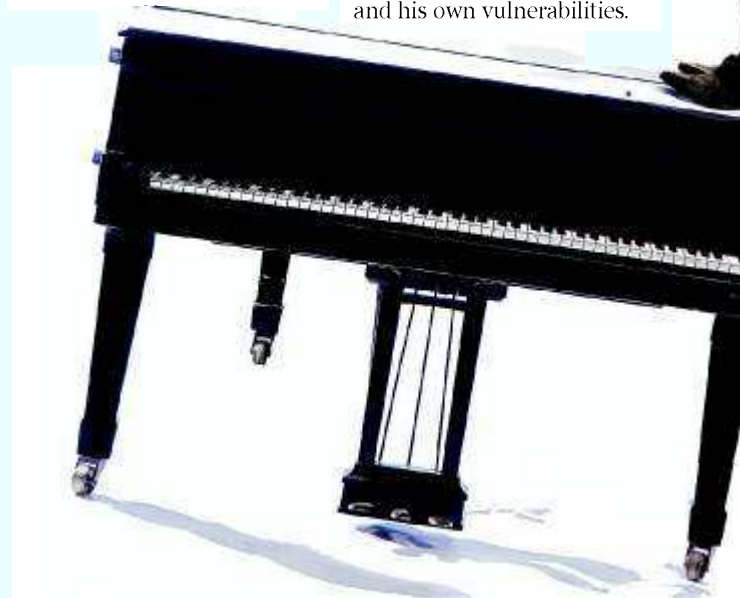
As for the piano, he can really play, and never sneaks a glance at his fingers spinning the keys. At one stage he fires such a blistering round of octaves he might as well have been plumbing the treacherous octave reaches of Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto*.

Minchin has enormous presence, a superior handle on self-deprecation, brilliant timing and an inexhaustible armoury of withering looks.

The sell-out audience indulged his every a political whim – "wives are vaginally endowed life partners" – and forgave the preacherly railing which bogged the momentum halfway.

And why not? This irreverent Australian is mostly laugh-out-loud hilarious.

The show presents a duel not between Minchin and the QSO, but a tussle between this entertainer's laser beaming wit and his own vulnerabilities.



WINNING CORNER:
 Tim Minchin is a sight hound for hypocrisy.