

writes in his program note, “a wedding comedy in a space that sees over two weddings each month and lies at the heart of a vibrant Italian community” – Balcatta’s Vasto Club.

The action takes place within and around the audience, many of whom are seated like guests at a wedding - indeed, many had paid extra to partake in the wedding feast; the stage proper is reserved for a small instrumental ensemble and a chorus largely comprising real-life knitting nonne drawn from the nearby Myvista Aged Care facility.

It is the day of the wedding. Young Donna Bettina (athletic soprano Claire Condipodero) is betrothed to the elderly but rich Don Procopio (baritone and mean mobility scooter rider Michael Lewis) thanks to her opportunistic uncle Don Andronico (suave baritone Paull-Anthony Keightley).

Of course Bettina is in love with dashing young Don Odoardo (even more suave tenor Alasdair Kent). But with aunt Donna Eufemia (a wonderful comic turn by soprano Stephanie Gooch) and outrageously camp brother Don Ernesto (the excellent Perry Joyce) in her corner, anything could happen...

Despite some longeurs in Act Two, this opening night performance was an absolute delight, the mix of garish costumes, physical comedy, engaging arias, duets, ensembles and choruses, audience interaction and Burgess’s witty English translation (“My uncle’s nerve is colossal/selling me to that crusty fossil”) combining to make this Big Fat Italian Wedding a night to remember.

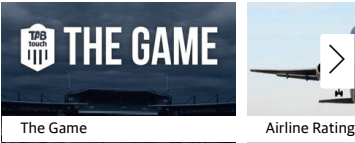
In short, Lost and Found Opera have done it again.

Don Procopio runs until Saturday night. Book at trybooking.com/KYHD

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