



## TAGS

AUCKLAND THEATRE  
REVIEWS

GLORIA AT TAPAC

GLORIA REVIEW  
AUCKLAND

## RELATED POSTS

- Live At Six – Aotea Centre
- Midsummer – Silo Theatre – Q Theatre
- The Brave – On Tour – Review
- Sydney Bridge Upside Down – Q Theatre

## SHARE THIS



## GLORIA – TAPAC

POSTED

The sparkling new incarnation of **GLORIA** opened on TAPAC's stage last weekend. Following a spectacularly season at Orewa's Centrestage Theatre, **GLORIA** tells the tale of 21-year-old, Gloria Stanford who made international headlines as "The Bride Who Couldn't Leave New Zealand".

Almost seven decades later her granddaughters, Amy and Catherine Waller, celebrate her colorful WWII years in this sparkling solo show.

*"I couldn't be happier with the way in which my grand daughters have depicted my life in this solo show. Some people ask me what I think of the 'naughty' parts and my response is I think it's great – after all what's life for otherwise?"* says the 89-year-old Gloria Stanford who is the inspiration for the show.



**GLORIA** is a show for everyone! It deals with love and loss, using the nostalgia of 1940's swing music, dancing and fearless physical theatre that promises to keep you on the edge of your seat.

**GLORIA will be at TAPAC until 30 November 7.30pm.**

**Our full review of the show's Orewa's Centrestage Theatre season is below.**

After a successful season at the 2011 New Zealand Fringe Festival, this colorful and compelling one woman show is back on the stage. Co-created by two of her granddaughters, one of whom portrays Gloria, this truly is a family affair which for me, made this piece even more poignant.

**GLORIA** celebrates the life of Gloria Sanford during her World War II years and the sequence of events that led her to making headlines when she got off the ship that was supposed to reunite her and her son with her American GI husband. Using a variety of props and with the help of some very clever lighting design, Gloria recounts the memories of her past and the struggles she faced during this time.

Visually and stylistically this production is extremely engaging and fascinating; it's evident how much thought has gone in to the set and sound design as it is very authentic to the time. Told through a fantastical lens, an ordinary domestic setting springs to life through a vivid blend of swing music, dance and physical theatre. Everyday items become vessels that transport us back to the 1940s to key moments in Gloria's life.

Amy Waller is an effortless storyteller with a captivating stage presence. It is such a courageous thing to do, to play someone that you know let alone someone that is so close to your heart and I felt she did an outstanding job. By the end of the play you will go away feeling you've not only traveled back in time but that you've made a new friend along the way.

**GLORIA** is a well captured snapshot of New Zealand history and a superbly crafted portrait of one war bride's exhilarating journey. It is wonderfully imaginative, beautifully nostalgic and an incredibly heartwarming theatrical tribute – a truly inspiring story.

Reviewed by Faith-Ashleigh Wong

## SUBSCRIBE HERE

Email

Submit

## KEEPING UP WITH US!



## WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT

The RSS feed for this twitter account is not loadable for the moment.

Follow @keepingupwithnz on twitter.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

## ABOUT THE KEEPING UP WITH TEAM

We are a group of arts obsessed culture vultures who love live music, comedy, theatre, movies, festivals and exhibitions as well as a great night out. We will keep our fingers firmly on the entertainment pulse of Aotearoa!

## RECENT POSTS

- GLORIA – TAPAC
- VNZMA 2013
- Silo 2014 Season Announced
- Auckland Theatre Company Announce 2014 Season
- Beyond The Edge – Review

## ARCHIVE

Select Month 