

## AMATEUR THEATRE REVIEW: Girls' Night – Side Dish Productions. Written by Louise Roche.



*Girls Night* is a vibrant, heartfelt musical that instantly draws you in and makes you feel like you're part of the group. It's a celebration of friendship, individuality, and the unbreakable bond between women, packed full of humour, emotional honesty, and high-energy musical numbers. What starts as a fun night out quickly becomes something much more meaningful, leaving the audience both entertained and genuinely moved.



Louise Roche's writing is sharp, relatable, and clearly written with performers in mind. The dialogue flows naturally, and each character feels distinct and recognisable, making it easy to connect with their journeys. Beneath the comedy and party atmosphere is a strong and touching message about support, self-acceptance, and showing up for one another, which gives *Girls Night* real heart and depth beyond being just a feel-good musical.

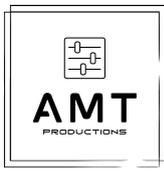


Director Helen Roberts, making her directing debut with *Girls Night*, deserves huge praise for a cohesive production. One of the real joys of the show was seeing how much she clearly enjoyed bringing a group of leading ladies together as a true ensemble. Every character had their moment to shine, and no one ever felt overshadowed. The balance between performers was strong throughout, creating a real sense of unity and teamwork on stage.



The set design was simple but used very cleverly, proving that effective storytelling doesn't need to be complicated. The reveal of the toilet cubicle in Act Two was a brilliant moment, landing perfectly for both comedy and visual impact. The white moped, also saved until Act Two, was another standout reveal that got a great reaction from the audience. Smaller set pieces such as the table, chairs, drinks, and boxes were basic but effective, doing exactly what they needed to without distracting from the action and helping scenes flow smoothly.



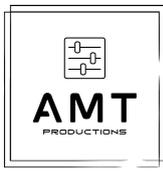


Lighting was kept fairly simple but was colourful and purposeful throughout. Meaningful spotlights helped highlight emotional moments and key performances, while the disco ball during *I'm a Survivor* brought a real sense of fun and celebration, perfectly matching the energy of the number and lifting the atmosphere in the room.



The costumes captured the feel of a party night out perfectly, with each character showing off their own individual style. This really helped reinforce their personalities and differences. Standout costume moments included the silver boots, school uniforms, coats worn at Pizza Plaza, and the striking white angel costume. Each choice felt intentional and added something extra to the storytelling.





The cast delivered strong and memorable performances across the board.

Becky Harton, playing Sharon, told the story beautifully and acted as a driving force throughout the show, keeping everything flowing. She was especially effective at engaging and hyping up the audience, creating an infectious energy when it was needed most.

Danielle Vernon's portrayal of Kate was hugely impressive. Being able to sing well is one thing, but singing convincingly while pretending to be drunk is a talent in itself, and Danielle did this fantastically, making her performance both entertaining and believable.

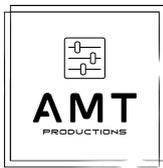
Tia Gill, as Anita, had excellent comedic timing, delivering a performance that was consistently hilarious and landed perfectly with the audience.

Nicky Brown's Carol was captivating from the moment she stepped on stage. She never stopped acting, constantly reacting to everything happening around her. You couldn't take your eyes off her, always wondering what she was going to do or say next.

Joanna Barker, playing Liza, showed a fantastic range throughout the show. She moved effortlessly between bubbly, brash, and highly strung, adding depth and contrast to the group and delivering several standout moments along the way.

The music in *Girls Night* is energetic and catchy, perfectly matching the spirit of the show. Each song moves the story forward rather than interrupting it, capturing everything from the excitement of a night out to quieter, more reflective moments. There's a strong sense of unity throughout the score, reinforcing the central themes of connection and support. The cast performed the musical numbers fantastically, delivering them with confidence, energy, and emotional honesty. The harmonies were particularly impressive, adding real richness to the ensemble numbers and highlighting how well the cast worked together.

Overall, *Girls Night* is a warm, funny, and uplifting musical that truly highlights the power of collaboration, both onstage and behind the scenes. Louise Roche's writing, combined with thoughtful direction and strong ensemble performances, makes this a production well worth celebrating.



# Meet the Cast!



Reviewer: Matthew Maney - AMT Productions

Date: 29.01.2026

**This production marks the company's first show, making it an impressive debut. As a new company, their commitment to bringing opportunities to new writers is both exciting and important. Their aim to showcase fresh work and emerging talent is clear, and *Girls Night* is a strong first step in that mission. Anyone interested in getting involved is encouraged to get in touch with them via Facebook.**

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61582070370143>