

A night with Sue Nicholson – September 2009

Upon seeing an advert in our local paper for Sue Nicholson's latest tour that was due to descend on the Southern Lakes, I thought it would be a good idea to get family to head along as I was interested to see Sue's methods verses that of the irascible Kelvin Cruickshank. This is their report...

Queenstown was the venue and once again thronged with an audience of over 150 people made up almost entirely of woman (at \$55 each a great windfall for Sue). At the door a table was busy selling her books, DVD's and CD's offered now, at half time and of course at the end of the show. Her agent, also named Sue, was very good at reminding the audience of the commercial enterprise that comes hand-in-hand with such Psychic road-shows - as was the main act when pushing the latest series of *Sensing Murder* due out in 2010)

Once the background music of 'angel' inspired songs had died down Sue was welcomed out and was soon into her work inviting the crowd to close their eyes, relax and let her voice and soothing music take them "to the other side". We were encouraged to walk through a spiritual garden, enter a door, take a seat and welcome loved ones who had passed over, receiving a gift of our own imaginations before 'returning'. For the next 45 minutes audience members eagerly offered to tell Sue what they were 'given' which, with lightening speed, she interpreted the symbolism for them in terms no more precise than what you'd expect in a newspaper horoscope. i.e – you stress too much, you're worried about your weight, you're too hard on yourself etc..

After a break she changed tack to the more standardised medium practice of interacting with the spirits who sat or stood next to her (or tried strangling her) and of those who kept bothering her in the dressing room, some spirits being forced to choose one of the seats Sue had theatrically arranged for organising the more insistent entities. From here she would find audience members who would recognise a familiar characteristic or name to launch from and receive hits from safe topics such as gardening, back pain, lost jewellery etc..

While making hugely generalised and repetitive statements seemed to be making positive 'hits', it wasn't hard to realise that the main points of agreement was merely the subject, with a microphone thrust under their noses, saying 'yes' to Sues incessant "do you understand?" after each nugget of info she offered. By continually rephrasing the same statement, "you need to go easy on yourself", "you're too hard on yourself", "you need to take time to relax" and receiving positive affirmations for each one she was seen to be wildly accurate.

It was when she went out on a limb with a non-generic piece of 'spirit communication' such as "you're planning an overseas trip, "you're looking at buying a red car", "you're building a deck" or "you want a baby" that she got things hopelessly wrong.

On each of these occasions once the setback of a negative response had registered she quickly went into damage control suggesting it must be a friend or relative that the spirit was referring to or when even this got shot down, just say that it would happen next year!

Of course, as you'd expect Sue spent far longer on the audience members who agreed unreservedly and offered her additional information than those who disagreed or seemed confused by her 'readings'.

Her last reading was a classic example of "if the shoe doesn't fit, make it fit" when she asked for a reference to a kilted man to make sense to anyone. In the front row a lady piped up while at the back another feverishly stuck her hand up, unseen by Sue. Sue locked on to the first woman with a "yes, it's you" and gave a lot of info that the lady agreed with before a reference to handbags made the other lady shriek that it must be her as she is a collector of handbags. Sue, hardly likely to admit the spirit clearly made a mistake in which woman was their loved one, merely shifted her attention to the new lady saying that both kilted men were actually passing on messages!

While most of her readings were fairly light-hearted I was reminded of the danger of psychics when Sue was reading for a lady who suffered from various strains and circulation issues. Sue's spirit doctor (a convenient way to indemnify oneself – "it wasn't me it was my spirit doctor!") was pretty good at locating this lady's ailments but when it was suggested supplements was all that was needed and that she "was fine" the ghost doctor would have blanched when the lady then advised us all that she had just been diagnosed with a brain lesion! Sue however brushed this aside with another "you'll be fine" assertion and a dangerous line about how we get too hung up on diagnoses and that medicine should give way to the power of self belief and spirituality to heal us. By way of a sad example she told a tale of how when her sick grandchild was on life support Sue merely used the power of her hands to bring the child back from the brink four times. Sue "the Defibrillator" Nicholson could save our healthcare millions!

This continued well into the night and If I was generous I'd say she gave value for money in terms of length of the show and there were funny moments as spirit humans battled for attention and spirit dogs played with balls on stage. As entertainment goes, it wasn't half bad – but in terms of believability, it was well below par - well that's my opinion anyway!