

snapshot

Leah Cotterell // singer

I was about 30 in this photograph - I had a jazz group, Leah Cotterell with Tony Hobbs' Bebopera. I was doing a lot of gigs, and Hobbs came along and said, "Would you like to play with us?" There were four in the group, plus myself, and we did hard swingin' gigs with lots of soloing. As you can see, I had a beehive for that gig at The Boundary Hotel at West End in 1991. My friend Richard Waugh (now *Brisbane News* photographer) took that photo. I wore vintage gowns that nobody else wore then. It was a beautiful black wool crepe with a beaded bow on the left shoulder. Sadly, it's now two sizes too small. I have suitcases full of gowns - when my daughter, who's six, is grown up, she can decide if she wants to wear them. Brisbane was pretty quiet 15 years ago ... but we played a lot of gigs and we did a lot of travelling. It was an exciting and creative time. We pursued our craft at a really high level, and there were enough gigs for us to do that.

Julia Ross



Women in Voice 15, until Nov 15 at the Playhouse, QPAC. Leah Cotterell is one of six female performers taking to the stage. \$31.75-\$41.75. Ph: 136 246, qtix.com.au

