

Josette Milgram-Todorovitch StayLa Multimédia & Come See Entertainment
proudly present

Isabelle Georges
and her all-star band
BROADWAY,
ENCHANTÉ!

Frederik Steenbrink
Jérôme Sarfati • Édouard Pennes • David Grébil
Directed by Jean-Luc Tardieu

ASSEMBLY HALL
EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE
AUGUST 2013

REVUE DE PRESSE

For further information
www.broadway-enchante.com

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Presse quotes:

'Judy, Julie, Gene, Fred and Ginger and ... Isabelle!
There's enough energy on display to light the Great White Way itself!
She (Isabelle Georges) charms from the moment she steps on stage... cutely sexy, mellifluous.
Songs sounding as fresh as the day they were written.
The rich-voiced Steenbrink sending a shiver down the spine with a solo Ol' Man River!'

★ ★ ★ ★ **The Scotsman**

'Sparkling like a cheeky champagne! Hits coming fast interspersed with comical skits.
Isabelle Georges is such a charismatic lady!'

★ ★ ★ ★ **Broadway Baby**

'Her finale is a gem, giving I Got Rhythm the full up-tempo song and dance treatment.
70 minutes of superb entertainment!'

★ ★ ★ ★ **One4Review**

'Brillant! A must see!'

★ ★ ★ ★ **EdFringeCritic**

'The sense of energy, collaboration and sheer joy in the performance
and experience of show tunes is irresistible!'

Time Out

'Isabelle Georges oozes star quality! The band is incredibly versatile.
Special mention must be given to her musical director who has some show-stealing moments.'

Musical Theatre Review

'The cast of Broadway Enchanté carry off with surprising grace.
Each and every one of them are excellent musicians.
The Parisian five-piece have a world of music under their belts.
Celebrating the melting pot of New York in the early 1900s,
Broadway Enchanté narrates the development of the Broadway musical
in between energetic performances of classic songs.
They explain how the timeless blend of music and drama combined
with the diversity of musical genres flooding in with immigration,
tracking musical history from silent films to the 'talkies' to jazz and beyond.
Rooted firmly in jazz music... powerful voices'

The List

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**CABARET
BROADWAY
ENCHANTE**
ASSEMBLY HALL (VENUE 35)
★★★★

JUDY, Julie, Gene, Fred and Ginger ... and Isabelle.

Parisian chanteuse Isabelle Georges loves Broadway melodies, and she brings us plenty in this 70-minute show. Most of the time she sings in English, but the mischievous tone is all French.

She charms from the moment she steps on stage, cutely sexy in red and white, inviting us into her world, promising us the endless energy of *la comédie musicale*.

And there's enough energy on display to light the Great White Way itself as the mellifluous Georges and partners Frederik Steenbrink (piano and vocals), Jérôme Sariati (double bass and piano), Édouard Pennes (guitar and vocals) and David Grébil (drums) guide us through a century of musical theatre.

I could have danced all night (*My Fair Lady*), *Dites-Moi* and *You've Got to Be Carefully Taught* (*South Pacific*), *I'll Build a Stairway to Paradise* (*An American in Paris*) ... Georges and the boys have them – and many more – sounding as fresh as the day they were written.

And the band members don't stay behind the instruments, they're bumping their bums for a sweet version of *Cheek to Cheek* (*Top Hat*), acting out the story of *Singing in the Rain* in just eight minutes, and as for the *Age of Aquarius* (*Hair*), well, you have to be there. There's a bonus chorus line, tap dancing and a delightful surprise for punters in the front row.

My favourite moments saw the rich-voiced Steenbrink take the spotlight, joining Georges for a beautiful *Something's Coming* (*West Side Story*), a mellow *Try to Remember* (*The Fantastiks*) and sending a shiver down the spine with a solo *Ol' Man River* (*Showboat*).

A running gag concerns the question of "who's the greatest?" when it comes to Broadway musicals: is it Gene, or Judy? Julie? I'm not sure there is a definitive answer – the stars shine, yes, but without the immortal songs we'd not remember them. And *Broadway Enchanté* reminds us just how *magnifique* those songs are.

MARTIN GRAY

Until 26 August. Today 7:35pm

MY LIFE IN CLOTHES

ISABELLE GEORGES SINGER

WHAT IS THE LAST PIECE OF CLOTHING YOU BOUGHT?

A pair of red shoes. My tribute to Hans Christian Andersen and Judy Garland.

BEST EVER BARGAIN?

A pair of Christian Louboutin shoes, but I will be as silent as the grave if you ask me where, when or how much. I never reveal my sources.

FAVOURITE HIGH STREET SHOP?

I tend to shop at Zadig & Voltaire, which you can find in France and I'm

told is now in London. My trip to Edinburgh would be a lot less profitable if their clothes were available here.

WHAT ARE YOU ADDICTED TO BUYING?

It would be easier to ask me what I'm not addicted to buying. I own 121 pairs of shoes and an ailing credit card. Lingerie from Lise Charmel is high on the list too, but that would be even nicer as a gift from a Scottish gentleman.

WHO HAS GREAT STYLE?

The Queen ... just kidding! Although

I do love those hats that she wears. Seriously, I'd say Tamara de Lempicka, David Bowie and Jean Paul Gaultier.

THE FAVOURITE ITEM IN YOUR WARDROBE?

Black lace lingerie and a ukulele. Although I don't play the ukulele in my underwear that often.

Isabelle Georges will be performing Broadway Enchanté! at Assembly Hall (Mound Place, Edinburgh) until 26 August (7:35pm). For tickets, £12, see www.assemblyfestival.com



Fabled host ready to serve up a taste of Paris at the Fringe

Nick Drainey

An American in Paris who for the past 35 years has entertained more than 100,000 guests at legendary open-house Sunday dinners in his Left Bank residence is bringing the experience to Edinburgh.

Jim Haynes is promoting two acts at the Festival Fringe and will host one of his eclectic suppers at the Scottish Arts Club in August.

In his Montparnasse home, Mr Haynes welcomes up to 70 people each week to a three-course meal, which can

'The guests are a mix of all people, travellers, students, pensioners'
Jim Haynes

be eaten with only a fork — guests perch where they can, sometimes moving into the garden, so knives are too tricky.

A rota of chefs, all friends, cook free of charge but the diners are asked for a donation (suggested amount is €30). The money pays for the food — which can be any type of cuisine — and any surplus goes to Amnesty International.

Despite the potential for mishaps, or misfortune, he says that he has never had a problem with his guests: "In 35 years I have had only nice people."

Some of the bigger names appearing at the festivals are certain to want to be invited to the soiree that Mr Haynes is planning in Edinburgh.

Germaine Greer, with whom he has collaborated to promote sexual freedom through newspapers and magazines, is among those to have attended Mr Haynes's Paris suppers, along with the Beat poet Allen Ginsberg.

But for Mr Haynes, now 79, the suppers are about creating a mix of different people. He said: "They are a mixture of all kinds of people, travellers, students, old-age pensioners. It is a good mixture of people. It is people who want to meet other people ... just a social evening."

The tradition of holding suppers is strong in Paris although normally, Mr Haynes said, they involve invited guests and can be a bit "snobby".

He made his name in the counter-culture scene of the 1960s promoting and directing acts across Europe. It began in Edinburgh where he stayed on after completing national service in the US Army. He lived in the city for ten years, setting up a bookshop and



Jim Haynes at one of his open-house dinners at his home in Montparnasse

helping to found the Traverse Theatre in 1963. And when it comes to festivals, he has seen more than most. This year will be his 56th.

Mr Haynes is promoting two shows. One of them, *Broadway Enchanté* in the Assembly Hall on the Mound, is a humorous take on musicals starring Isabelle Georges, who also lives in Paris. She said of Mr Haynes: "He is the person who knows everybody in Paris. It is amazing to be at one of his dinners. Last time I was there you had Australians, Americans, British, Brazilians and French people from every possible background."

But will it fit in to the rather more

reserved confines of Edinburgh? Ms Georges said: "Edinburgh is also a huge place ... I am sure it could work, Jim is a huge figure."

His Parisian suppers began after he moved to the French capital and lectured on media studies and sexual politics at the University of Paris. He said: "I had a house guest who was a dancer from Los Angeles, a young woman who was the least likely cook you can imagine but she turned out to be a gourmet chef. She said that she would cook for me and my friends and she said she would cook for 25 — it was probably the best meal they had in their lives."