

New York, October 11 - The popular West Coast based cabaret series, *The Right To Cabaret*, is on its way to New York. Hosted by three charismatic cabaret connoisseurs from the City of Angles –Alexis Fae Gach, MaryJo Mundy (Mundy on Tuesdays at the Gardenia), and Hillary Rollins, ***The Right to Cabaret*** will play one show at The Green Room 42 on Saturday, November 4th at 7PM. The Green Room 42 is located in the 4th Floor of YOTEL, on the east side of 10th Avenue, between 41st and 42nd Streets. Tickets range from \$20-\$50 plus online fees, with livestream tickets available as well for \$25. The venue has a food menu, a full bar and no minimum. Tix: <https://thegreenroom42.venuetix.com/show/details/TWgGqMfCS2Kv8FvWIHOc/1699138800000>

The series, which emerged from the heart of Los Angeles in 2019 as a dynamic response to the underrepresentation of the art form of cabaret in that city, customarily presents three guest performers in the categories of seasoned artist, songwriter, and up and comer. On Nov.4th, it will include the formidable talents of two-time Bistro, Nightlife, and thirteen-time MAC Award Winner, Natalie Douglas; four-time Grammy Award nominated John Forster; and two-time Broadway World Award Winner, Ava Nicole Frances. Music Direction is by Alex Rybeck.

The show will also feature “Sing By The Seat of Your Pants,” a chance for an audience member to get up on stage and strut their stuff. The evening will end with a sing-along for all.

Founded in 2017 and located in the heart of the theatre district in YOTEL Times Square, The Green Room 42 is Broadway's most spacious, and funkier cabaret club. Hailed by the New York Times as "Broadway's Off-Night Hotspot," the curated nightlife experience features your favorite Broadway stars in live performance, and a delicious menu of food and drink.

PERFORMERS

NATALIE DOUGLAS

Natalie Douglas is a two-time Bistro, Nightlife, and thirteen-time MAC Award Winner, whose international performances have taken her from concert halls to theaters to intimate clubs and everything in between. She has produced & performed in 80 concerts at her musical home, Birdland Jazz Club in New York City (where her picture hangs on the legendary Birdland Wall of Fame), most notably her TRIBUTES series celebrating artists she loves including, Nina Simone, Stevie Wonder, Dolly Parton, Nat King Cole, Roberta Flack, Joni Mitchell, Sammy Davis, Jr., Cher & Lena Horne.

In addition, Douglas has made her mark as a much sought-after educator and actor – she is an expert instructor for the Jim & Elizabeth Sullivan Foundation, the Eugene O’Neill Cabaret & Performance Conference and the Mabel Mercer Foundation, where she has also been named Education Director. Currently, she can be seen in the award-winning documentary, “Sloane: A Jazz Singer,” celebrating another one of her heroes, the late, great Carol Sloane, in domestic & international film festivals. Natalie holds a Bachelor’s Degree from USC in Psychology, Theater and Women’s Studies and a Master’s Degree from UCLA in Psychology and Theatre.

She will soon add to her three CD catalog, including the MAC Award Winning *Human Heart*, with a brand new album on Club44 Records. Her CDs are currently available on Apple Music, Amazon.com, Spotify, and her website: nataliedouglas.com.

JOHN FORSTER

John Forster is an award-winning songwriter, humorist and record producer whose work encompasses the worlds of singer-songwriting, musical theater and children’s entertainment.

As a recording artist John’s 1994 debut album *Entering Marion* received an Indie Award HM (the independent record labels’ Grammy) for Best Comedy Album. Many of his witty

topical songs have been featured on [NPR's "Morning Edition."](#) His songs have been recorded by Christine Lavin, Judy Collins, Rosanne Cash and the late Dave Van Ronk, among many others. His song "[Entering Marion](#)" is included in Dr. Demento's "50 Greatest Novelty Songs Of All Time." John is also co-author of the children's books "[This Pretty Planet.](#)" based on his song, as well as "The Backwards Birthday Party" (Atheneum) and the teen parody book "The BSAT Official Study Guide" (Running Press).

As a writer and producer of bright, sassy music for children John has been nominated for four Grammy Awards, most recently for the [Tom Chapin](#) album *Some Assembly Required*. Other children's albums include *Family Tree*, *This Pretty Planet*, *Billy The Squid* and a dozen more. He has produced records for everyone from the Olsen Twins to the original "tot rock" band, Rosenshontz. John's song "Sing Me The Story Of Your Day" was sung by Faith Hill on the 2006 Grammy-winning *Thanks & Giving*.

His musicals includes the regional theater favorite [Eleanor-An American Love Story](#) (licensed through [Concord Theatricals](#)) as well as *Into The Light* on Broadway and the Off Broadway revues *Pretzels* and *A Good Swift Kick*. His latest is *Mariel*, an Afro-Cuban immigration story commissioned by the Cincinnati Playhouse. His scores for young audiences include the perennial [How to Eat Like a Child](#) one of the most widely produced children's shows in the country (licensed through [Concord Theatricals](#)), as well as book and lyrics for *Freaky Friday* with composer Mary Rodgers. (From John Forster's website).

AVA NICOLE FRANCES

Born in Phoenix, Arizona of Native and Mexican descent, Ava Nicole Frances was raised in San Francisco by her two dads. She currently attends New York University. Ava has been performing professionally since age 10. She has wowed audiences in San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York & London. She is a two time Broadway World Cabaret Award winner: 2022 Best Debut Show and 2020 Best Junior Performer.

Ava's West Coast solo concert debut *Here's Looking at You Kid* was the season finale of the Live at The Orinda Concert Series. Her previous show *Mutual Admiration* with Charlo Crossley premiered in NYC to rave reviews at 54Below in 2022. In the same year Ava made her international debut in London in *Triple Threats* at The Crazy Coqs. A two-time alum and Ambassador for Michael Feinstein's Songbook Academy, Ava was the proud recipient of the 2022 Songbook Spotlight Award. In 2021 Ava was a top five finalist on Broadway World's Next On Stage Competition (Season 2). During quarantine, Ava released two singles, "One World" and "I Am Your Child" with all proceeds donated to Save the Children's Pandemic Fund.

Ava's musical theatre performances include Tracy - *Hairspray*, Diana Morales - *A Chorus Line* and Rona/Mother - *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Ava and her dad have been recreating iconic film and Broadway costumes as tributes to all the artists who have influenced her life and art. What began as a fun way to teach young Ava about the arts has turned into a Halloween tradition and an upcoming a book.

Here's Looking at You Kid is set to make its New York City debut on Oct.10, 2023 at 54Below.

(From Ava Nicole Frances' website.)

ALEX RYBECK – MUSIC DIRECTOR

Alex Rybeck is a music director, composer, arranger and pianist, best known for his work in concerts and cabarets, on recordings, and in the theater. Broadway credits include *Merrily We Roll Along* (directed by Hal Prince, *Grand Hotel* (directed by Tommy Tune), and others. He has also worked with Susan Stroman (*Flora the Red Menace*) and Patricia Birch (*Really Rosie*). Regionally, his work on *What the World Needs Now*, starring Sutton Foster, won him personal praise from Burt Bacharach.

After growing up in the suburbs of Washington, DC, and attending Oberlin College, he moved to New York City, where he was mentored by Leonard Bernstein, Stephen

Sondheim, Arthur Laurents and Stephen Schwartz while attending NYU's Graduate Musical Theater Writing Program.

Among the many artists he has worked with are such legends as George Abbott, Metropolitan Opera diva Roberta Peters, "Voice of Hollywood," Marni Nixon, Eartha Kitt, The McGuire Sisters, Julie Wilson, and Kitty Carlisle Hart. He has also enjoyed meaningful collaborations with Faith Prince, Liz and Ann Hampton Callaway, Jane Olivor, Melissa Errico, Karen Mason, Sharon McNight, Jeff Harnar, Donna McKechnie, Jason Graae, Lee Roy Reams, Tovah Feldshuh, Rita Gardner, Roslyn Kind, Amanda McBroom, and many, many others. His original song "What a Funny Boy He Is" was recorded by the late Nancy LaMott.

He has received numerous awards and honors (MAC, Bistro, Nightlife, Billboard, and Broadwayworld.com) as music director and songwriter. As a highly sought-after coach, he has taught master classes in NYC, L.A., and DC, as well as at Yale, Harvard, Northwestern, Queensland Conservatorium (Brisbane) and the New Zealand Singing School.

HOSTS

MaryJo Mundy got her first standing ovation at the age of 6, and she knew from that moment on that her life had to be about music. She explored musical theater in high school and college, and moved from Minnesota to Chicago where she began her journey into cabaret and the Great American Songbook. When she moved to LA, she began producing a night for singers (originally called Mundy on Tuesdays at Tom Rolla's Gardenia) and it has been going gangbusters now for the last 23 years. She also created and produced "NoHo Studio Live," an opportunity for performers to record a CD in a professional studio with a live audience. She has performed alongside legendary figures such as Chita Rivera, Julie Wilson, Margaret Whiting and Melissa Manchester and sang in the choir for Barbra Streisand's "Timeless" concerts at the Staples Center. She released her debut CD *Halfway to Heaven* in 2007 to critical acclaim. In 2009 she had the honor of singing at the Opening Ceremonies for the Special Olympics. She has appeared on Lee Lessack's

In Good Company, Christine Lavin & Friends, as well as other shows. Beloved for her powerful and striking voice, MaryJo's sensitive side is showcased on her most recent recording, *The Fourteenth Confession: Songs of Laura Nyro*, released in 2019.

Alexis Gach, a Native Angeleno, is a multi-genre vocalist, and grateful recipient of the 2022 Pomranz Performance Award through the American Songbook Association. She has spent the better part of 40 years chasing the thrill of communicating through song. A graduate of Berklee College of Music, producer and performer of seven one-woman shows, Ms. Gach is delighted to restore, with co-producers Hillary Rollins and MaryJo Mundy, the Los Angeles based and continually sold-out cabaret series, *The Right to Cabaret*.

Hillary Rollins is a producer, cabaret performer, and musical theatre lyricist-librettist who began her singing career as one-third of the legendary close-harmony trio, "Hilly, Lili & Lulu," appearing in and around NYC throughout the 1980's. Simultaneously, she cut her teeth as writer, supplying sketches and funny songs for the Manhattan Punchline Theater and eventually working her way into television including a four-season stint as a writer on the Disney Channel's *Mickey Mouse Club*. In addition, she wrote many projects for Nickelodeon and Nick-At-Nite. Her production company, **Hillary Rollins Presents** brings live concert and cabaret events to both coasts with artists including Amanda McBroom, Julie Gold, Michele Brouman, Ken Hirsch, Steve Dorff, John Bucchino, and Christine Lavin. She produces several successful performance series, including **Songs From The Source** and **The Right To Cabaret**. She is thrilled that her tune, "*While There Is Still Time*," written with Michele Brouman, just won the grand prize in the Braver Angels Songwriting Competition, and was featured in their National Convention in Gettysburg in July.

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