

Steven M. Levy and Sean Sweeney present

GINA BECK
DANIEL BOYS
DAVID BURT
EVE POLYCARPOU
in

Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris

Music Jacques Brel
Lyrics Jacques Brel, Eric Blau, Mort Shuman
Book Eric Blau, Mort Shuman

Director Andrew Keates
Musical Director Dean Austin
Choreographer Sam Spencer Lane
Designer Chris de Wilde
Lighting Designer Mike Robertson
Sound Designer James Nicholson



West End stars Gina Beck, Daniel Boys, David Burt and Eve Polycarpou are starring in a major new production of the hit revue **Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris** at Charing Cross Theatre for a strictly limited season from Thursday 16 October - Saturday 22 November.

Press night is Saturday 18 October at 7.45pm

Often haunting, sometimes funny, heart-wrenching and vividly poetic, the songs of Belgian Jacques Brel - from *Jackie* and *Amsterdam* to *Ne Me Quitte Pas* and *Carousel* - explore the human condition through honest storytelling, with themes of joy and sorrow, love and loss, war and peace and life and death.

Directed by Andrew Keates, whose acclaimed production of *Dessa Rose* has just finished a sellout run at Trafalgar Studios, **Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris** is a musical revue of the greatest works by one of the most prolific singer-songwriters of all time, with what are regarded as the definitive English translations of his works by Eric Blau and Mort Shuman and fresh orchestral arrangements by Eric Svejcar from the award-winning 2006 Off Broadway production. That production was the longest running and most successful revival of the show, nominated for several awards including the Drama Desk, Drama League, and Outer Critics Circle.

Award-winning **Daniel Boys** became a household name while appearing on BBC's *Any Dream Will Do* in 2007. Since then he has starred in several West End musicals including three years playing the central character of Princeton/Rod in *Avenue Q* (winning him a Whatsonstage Award) and as Sir Lancelot in *Spamalot*. He has just starred as Oliver Barrett IV in *Love Story* at Bolton Octagon. His other major roles include Captain Walker in *Tommy* (Prince Edward), Mike in *High Society* (UK tour), Judas in the 40th Anniversary concert of *Godspell* (*Palace Theatre, Manchester*), Mark in *Rent* (European tour) and Anthony in *Sweeney Todd* (Royal Festival Hall).

Olivier Award-nominated **David Burt** is one of the West End's most respected and in-demand leading men. He has appeared in dozens of notable West End productions, including playing Enjolras in the original cast of *Les Misérables*, Magaldi in the original cast of *Evita*, Pontius Pilate in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and Count Fosco in *The Woman in White*. David's other credits include *Cats*, *Chess*, *The Far Pavilions*, *Closer to Heaven*, *Taboo* and *Kiss Me, Kate*, as well as seasons at the National Theatre and RSC. He was nominated for a Best Actor Olivier Award for his performance as Macheath in the RSC's *The Beggar's Opera*.

kevinwilson
public relations

Press contact: Kevin Wilson at KWPR
07884 368697 kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com



Gina Beck recently starred as Glinda in *Wicked* at the Apollo Victoria Theatre, West End and on the US national tour. Prior to that she appeared in the critically acclaimed *The Belle's Strategem* at Southwark Playhouse and as Maria Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music* in Kuala Lumpur. Other recent credits include *The Les Miserables 25th Anniversary Concert* at the O2 Arena. In September 2010 she completed two years in the West End production of *The Phantom of the Opera* playing Christine.

Eve Polycarpou recently starred in the central role of Abuela Claudia in the UK premiere of *In The Heights* (for which she was nominated for an OFFIE Best Actress Award) at Southwark Playhouse. Her other major roles include *Mother Courage and Her Children* (Manchester Library Theatre Company), *The Bacchae* and *Palace of the End* (Manchester Royal Exchange), and *Threepenny Opera* (National Theatre). She received awards as 'Manchester Evening News Best Actress of the Year' and the 'Amnesty International award for freedom of expression', given for her impressive body of work at Manchester Royal Exchange.

Jacques Romain Georges Brel was a Belgian singer-songwriter who composed and performed literate, thoughtful, and theatrical songs that generated a large, devoted following, initially in Belgium and France, later throughout the world, which was in love with his music. He was widely considered a master of the modern chanson. Although he recorded most of his songs in French, he became a major influence on English-speaking songwriters and performers such as David Bowie, Alex Harvey, Leonard Cohen, Marc Almond and Rod McKuen. English translations of his songs were recorded by many top performers in the United States, including Ray Charles, Judy Collins, John Denver, the Kingston Trio, Nina Simone, Frank Sinatra, Scott Walker, and Andy Williams. In French-speaking countries, Brel was a successful actor, appearing in 10 films. He also directed two films, one of which, *Le Far West*, was nominated for the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 1973. Having sold over 25 million records worldwide, Brel is the third best-selling Belgian recording artist of all time.

Director **Andrew Keates'** recent productions include the European premiere of Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahren's *Dessa Rose* at Trafalgar Studio 2, *Passing By* (Tristan Bates), the first London revival of *As Is* by William M. Hoffman and the European premiere of *ROOMS - A Rock Romance* (Finborough). Other productions include directing and developing the award-winning professional premiere of *A Winter's Tale*, co-written with Howard Goodall and Nick Stimson, *The Thing About Man* and *The Hired Man* (Landor), *Conjugal Rights* (Courtyard) and *Just So* (Tabard). His awards include Best New Musical (*A Winter's Tale*) and Best Musical Production (*The Hired Man*) in the OffWestEnd Awards.

Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris

Thursday 16 October – Saturday 22 November

Charing Cross Theatre
The Arches
Villiers Street
London
WC2N 6NL
www.charingcross theatre.co.uk
Box office: 08444 930 650

Monday to Saturday at 7.45pm
Saturday matinee at 3.00pm

Tickets £10.00 - £22.50

2 hours including interval

Nearest underground stations: Charing Cross (Bakerloo and Northern lines), Embankment (Bakerloo, Northern, Circle and District lines)

Nearest rail station: Charing Cross.

@JacquesBrelUK
@CharingCrossLDN

kevinwils★n
public relations

Press contact: Kevin Wilson at KWPR 07884 368697
kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com