

Francesca Amari – Cabaret Shows

Here is a selection of the numerous cabaret shows I have available for booking. All shows have been critically acclaimed and well-received, are performed with a piano player and added musicians if requested.

Website [HERE](#)

More Music Links [HERE](#)

MEDIA KIT ATTACHED



“DIFFERENT DRUM: The Music of Linda Ronstadt”

Excerpt [HERE](#)

Linda Ronstadt is one of the biggest names in pop/rock music history, earning 12 Grammys and selling more than 100 million albums. Her iconic voice and sound helped shape the music of the 1970s and 1980s, and she is celebrated for her ability to adapt to a diverse range of musical styles, including country, rock, jazz and Spanish-language classics. Now, lauded cabaret singer Francesca Amari pays tribute to the vast music catalog of Linda Ronstadt in her new show, “Different Drum: The Music of Linda Ronstadt” and it will knock your socks off.

“Amari is in a league of her own when it comes to the art form (of cabaret), and she tells Linda’s story with panache, wit, reverence and reverie. And her vocals? Amari brings all the Ronstadt to the yard.”
BroadwayWorld.com

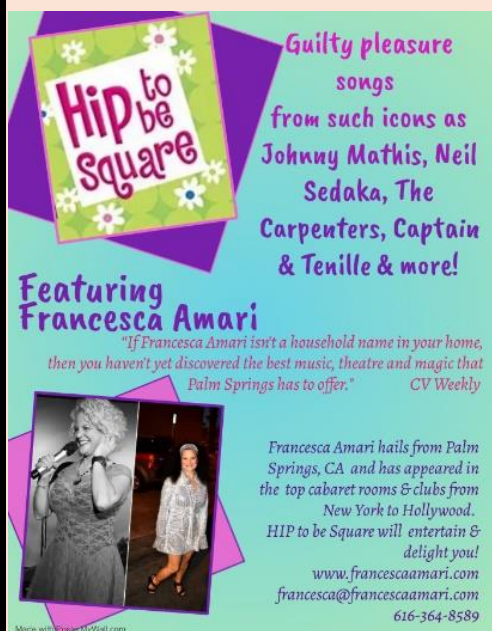
“You Make Me Laugh:

A Love Song to Gilda Radner”

A musical biography of the brilliant comedienne, Gilda Radner, told through Gilda’s own words, terrific stories & wonderful music from the Great American Songbook, the cabaret world, Broadway & pop! Music Link [HERE](#)

“Amari is not only a gifted vocalist, but her storytelling and willingness to put it all out there is one of the most intimate and delightful cabarets I’ve had the pleasure of seeing. If you enjoy comedy, stellar vocals, and terrific storytelling, this show will likely be one of the most entertaining, and shortest two hours of your life.”

BroadwayWorld.com



HIP to be SQUARE: Guilty Pleasure Songs

Those songs you hate to admit you love from such guilty-pleasure artists as Johnny Mathis, Neil Sedaka, The Carpenters, Captain & Tennille & more!

Music Link [HERE](#)

“Amari is a sparkling package of perky precision and vocal dynamite who seems capable of nailing any type of song she tries.”
~ CabaretScenes Magazine

Cocktails & Cabaret w/ Francesca Amari

A perfect HAPPY HOUR show! A master cabaret performer, this is Francesca's LIVE version of my weekly livestream, now in Year TWO and started during the 3rd week of the pandemic. It features the best music from the Great American Songbook, jazz, pop & LOTS more; plus, good "bad" jokes and yummy cocktails!!

Music Link [HERE](#)



Here are my additional shows:



The Mod Squad Variety Show

Called "the happiest happy hour," the Mod Squad Variety Show features 3 of Coachella Valley's finest entertainers, specializing in Mid-Century MOD-POP, Rat Pack-era music & a whole lot more (...we call it our "Kitchen Sink" set)! Full of Laughs, Audience Interaction and GREAT music... and have TONS OF FUN! With Francesca Amari, Jeff Stewart & Wayne Abravanel.

Music Link [HERE](#)

Songbirds: The Women in My Head

A heartfelt tribute to some of the greatest female songwriters & singers, including Carolyn Leigh, Dorothy Fields, Christine Lavin, Carol King, Ella Fitzgerald, Linda Ronstadt, Eva Cassidy, Nancy LaMott, Andrea Marcovicci & more! Music Link [HERE](#)

Where the Boys Are: Beatles, Bacharach & Beyond!

A gender-bending tribute to the great male singers, bands and songwriters, like Billy Joel, Dan Fogelberg, the Beatles, Burt Bacharach & more!

Music Link [HERE](#)

Girl Swingers: Gals of the Big Band Era

Francesca presents an eclectic jazz program dedicated to the great female swinging big band singers of yesteryear, such as Anita O'Day, Betty Hutton, Doris Day, Ella Mae Morse & more. They swung such tunes as "Cow Cow Boogie," "Blues in the Night," and "You Make Me Feel So Young."

Music Link [HERE](#)

The FrancescaTones

A laid-back, jazz-infused celebration of the Great American Songbook, featuring preeminent CA jazz musicians, guitarist Doug MacDonald and bassist Larry Holloway.

Music Link [HERE](#)

My newest concept show, in progress:

"Reeling in the Years: A Musical Romp Through the Decades"

A musical trip down memory lane featuring some of the hottest number one hits from a variety of Francesca Amari's BABY BOOMER years!

www.francescaamari.com

francesca@francescaamari.com

616.364.8589



Francesca Amari Bio

(please note: my name for all performing promo is **Francesca Amari**;
I do not use my married name)

www.francescaamari.com

*"If Francesca Amari isn't a household name in your home,
then you haven't yet discovered the best music, theatre & magic that
Palm Springs has to offer." CV Weekly*

Recently named the winner of BroadwayWorld Palm Springs Award for Best Streaming Concert/Cabaret in 2022 for her Gilda Radner tribute show, Francesca Amari is a versatile singer/cabaret artist from Palm Springs, CA. She was nominated Vocalist of the Decade by BroadwayWorld Palm Springs in 2020 & Best Jazz Vocalist in the 2020 & 2018 Coachella Valley Music Awards, and has performed @top-rated cabaret clubs from New York to Hollywood, including Birdland, Metropolitan Room, The Triad & 92nd Street Y in NYC; The Gardenia, Catalina Jazz Club, Mbar, Rockwell Table & E Spot/Vitello's in Hollywood; Martinis Above Fourth in San Diego & the Purple Room in Palm Springs. Francesca has earned rave reviews for her entertaining cabaret shows. She tours the country w/her critically-acclaimed Gilda Radner tribute & has performed & studied with such cabaret luminaries as Andrea Marcovicci, Karen Mason, Marilyn Maye & Sam Harris. In SoCal, Francesca performs regularly as a jazz/pop singer or with her "Cocktails & Cabaret" show or Mod Squad Trio at top Coachella Valley spots, including Melvyn's, Woody's, PS Underground, The Purple Room, AJ's on the Green, Palm Canyon Roadhouse & COPA Nightclub. She appeared in the AZ, FL & PA Non-Equity premieres of *"Midlife! The Crisis Musical"* by veteran Broadway brothers Bob & Jim Walton & won a Desert Theatre League (DTL) award for best professional actress as Reno Sweeny in Palm Canyon Theatre's *"Anything Goes."* She's received multiple BroadwayWorld & DTL nominations for *"Gilda," "Sister Robert Anne's Cabaret Class"* & *"Women Behind Bars."* Other theatre credits include *"Sordid Lives," "Pump Boys & Dinettes," "Taffetas," "Beehive," "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown"* & *"A...My Name is Alice."* Francesca is a busy audiobook director & has been teaching & directing children's theatre for 30+ years.



www.FrancescaAmari.com



Winners Announced For The BroadwayWorld 2021 Palm Springs Awards

Check out the full list of winners!

by BWW Awards Jan. 13, 2022



Winners have been announced for the 2021 BroadwayWorld Palm Springs Awards. The 2021 Regional Awards honor productions which had their first performance between October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

Streaming productions were eligible this year in the categories designated as such. This year BroadwayWorld also enabled audiences to vote on which theatres they are most excited to return to, and which productions they are most excited to see.

The BroadwayWorld Regional Awards are the largest theatre audience awards, with over 100 cities worldwide participating.

Want to be the first to know about the 2022 BroadwayWorld Regional Awards? Sign up for our [local newsletter here](#).

2021 BroadwayWorld Palm Springs Award Winners

Best Play

EYELESS IN COLONUS - Joshua Tree Summer Theatre Under the Stars

Best Streaming Concert/Cabaret

Francesca Amari - *LOVE SONG TO Gilda Radner* - Desert Rose Playhouse

Best Streaming Play

A CROWD OF ONE - Desert Ensemble Theatre

Best Supporting Performer In A Play

Mackenzie Naylor - *EYELESS IN COLONUS* - Wind walkers Medicine Wheel

Best Supporting Performer In A Streaming Play

Jonathan Hatsios - *CRUSADE* - Zoom

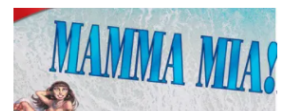
HOT STORIES



BWW Review:
DIFFERENT DRUM: THE
MUSIC OF LINDA
RONSTADT at Arthur
Newman Theater At The
Joslyn Center



Winners Announced For
The BroadwayWorld
2021 Palm Springs
Awards



Desert Theatricals
Announces Casting for
2022 Season Of
Musicals



What They're Saying...

www.FrancescaAmari.com

"...a pert Francesca Amari turned "What I Did for Love" into a boldly fervent Broadway reflection."

-Variety

"If Francesca Amari isn't a household name in your home, then you haven't yet discovered the best music, theatre and magic that Palm Springs has to offer."

~CV Weekly

"I doubt there's a cabaret singer out there who could sing this song any better. Francesca –you can sing anything!"

– Andrea Marcovici, legendary cabaret star

"Francesca Amari, a brilliant and massively talented entertainer." **Bernie Furshpan, Metropolitan Room/Zoom, NYC**

"Prior to each scene, Bitsy Mae Harling (Francesca Amari) sings songs at the front of the stage or in the aisles of the theatre, accompanying herself on a pink guitar, and starting every song by planting her chewing gum on the face of the guitar. Her voice and humorous character are perfect."

-BroadwayWorld.com

"You and I got the honors of setting up the evening...you were absolutely wonderful! I love watching and hearing you. You are such a generous spirit on stage...& a great sense of humor. A voice that goes all over the place...and just lots of fun."

-Karen Mason, Cabaret & Broadway Star

"Amari is a sparkling package of perky precision and vocal dynamite who seems capable of nailing any type of song she tries."

~Elliot Zwiebach, CabaretScenes Magazine

"Not only are you gorgeous but you are a marvelous, versatile performer with the voice of an angel! God danced all over you!"

~Gavin MacLeod, TV & Film Actor

"Francesca, I was there last night and wanted you to know how wonderful you sounded...thank you." -Gary Grant, World-class trumpeter (Barbra Streisand, Earth, Wind & Fire, Manhattan Transfer, Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley)

"Amari, a pert bundle of vocal dynamite...Never trying to imitate the original artists, Amari simply reflected the joys of their unique sounds as she put her own spin on each song."

~Elliot Zwiebach, CabaretScenes

"You Make Me Laugh is a love song to Gilda Radner with Francesca Amari's intimate storytelling, a hilarious sing-along, and plenty of music and laughter."

-Kay Kudukis, Palm Springs Life

"Francesca Amari presents her magnificent show, "A Love Song To Gilda Radner" tonight at The Purple Room!"

Michael Holmes, owner, The Purple Room Palm Springs

"With her piping, fuzzy-fizzy voice and bubbly, enthusiastic personality seeming eternally girlish and down-to-earth, Francesca Amari can be barrels of fun...She was indeed adorable in her savvy, entertaining cabaret show, "Secretly Square: Guilty Pleasure Songs."

-Rob Lester, Cabaret Scenes

"The 3-day Improv Festival w/ Cabaret star & actress Francesca Amari is the place to be, w/ her tribute to Gilda Radner. The lovely and talented actress/singer has long been a desert favorite with a large following." **Jack Lyons, Movie/Theatre Critic**

"FRANCESCA AMARI'S (SQUARE) show tonight was a smash hit...a brilliant show!" ~Les Michaels, Cabaret Producer

"Amari looks a lot like Radner, though that isn't particularly important. What is important is the truth and sincerity in her singing, the earnest way she delivers a lyric and the honesty of her feelings that comes through again and again..."

~Elliot Zwiebach, CabaretScenes

"There would be no Sister Robert Anne without the singing and comedy skills of Francesca Amari, who makes her star turn in this one-woman spin-off."

Bruce Fessier, Desert Sun



BWW Review:

DIFFERENT DRUM: THE MUSIC OF LINDA RONSTADT

Arthur Newman Theater, Palm Desert, CA

by Kay Kudukis Jan. 7, 2022

One of our brightest stars in Palm Springs is vocalist and cabaret artist, Francesca Amari. She's a terrific singer, and I enjoy her performances around town, but it is her cabaret shows that really knock my socks off.

This is the third cabaret of hers that I've seen, and each one is completely different with one exception: every single one of them is a damn good time.

The first show I saw Amari perform was You Make Me Laugh: A Love Song to Gilda Radner, which I couldn't have loved more if I tried. I have seen it several times and it tickles me every time.

Then there was Hip to Be Square: Guilty Pleasure Songs, where Amari took us back in her personal time machine, sharing some of her pivotal moments punctuated by the soundtrack of her youth. It's a bit yacht rock-y, and tons of fun.

Now Les Michaels' Cabaret series is presenting her show Different Drum, the story of Linda Ronstadt's life with Ronstadt's own music providing the soundtrack. You can catch it at the Arthur Newman Theater at the Joslyn Center on January 30th.

Ronstadt doesn't have an easy range to copy. She's got major chops with the coveted "no break" between her head and chest voice. It's something she and Amari have in common, and I am always impressed by that whenever Amari sings.

"I was in New York for one year and I went to a vocal coach for a little while. He was the first person to explain what I was doing with my voice. I hadn't been taught it, but-it's called a mix. There is no break between your head voice and your chest voice and I just was doing it naturally. He worked on helping me strengthen it. But I didn't know I was doing that. And I think that actually came from listening to Linda, because she doesn't have that (break)," Amari explains.



The show has some of Ronstadt's biggest hits: Long, Long Time, When Will I Be Loved, and Desperado but Amari also provides some of Ronstadt's less traveled roads such as her album of classics with breakout hit What's New, as well as a Spanish language album revisiting the culture of her youth.

Throughout her life Ronstadt has been a musician magnet. She was consistently hiring and collaborating with future rock stars. In fact, if it weren't for Ronstadt hiring Glenn Frey and Don Henley for her own band, The Eagles likely wouldn't exist.

"They were all so young and just starting their careers, Jackson Browne-he was her neighbor, the Eagles of course, Randy Newman -all these great people that were her peers," Amari says. "They were all just hanging around together, making music."

Amari takes us from Ronstadt's childhood to her time with the Stone Poneys, Neil Young, then the Jerry Brown years and beyond, all punctuated with songs from her extensive catalogue of music.

The show was conceived by Amari and producer Rickie McCabe. They've done a terrific job of crafting a show that not only tells Ronstadt's story, it showcases Amari's captivating cabaret stylings. She's truly in a league of her own when it comes to this art form, and Lee has taken full advantage of that.



Frequent co-star/accompanist/collaborator and musical director Wayne Abrahams once again impresses on the keys and backup vocals. The two have established a great rhythm together. Their duets are quite lovely.

One of the highlights was a song I'd never heard before, The Moon is a Harsh Mistress. It will stay with you long after Amari breathes out the last haunting note.

As You Make Me Laugh was a love song to Gilda Radner, the same can be said of Different Drum. Amari tells the story with panache, wit, reverence and reverie. And her vocals? Amari's bringing all the Ronstadt to the yard.

Highly recommended.



You Make Me Laugh

Gilda Radner won the hearts of America with her joyously over-the-top, but relatable characters on *Saturday Night Live*. Her life was cut way too short, but her spirit lives on in Francesca Amari's cabaret show.

KAY KUDUKIS / JANUARY 7, 2020 / ATTRACTIONS, CURRENT DIGITAL



You Make Me Laugh is a love song to Gilda Radner with Francesca Amari's intimate storytelling, a hilarious sing-along, and plenty of music and laughter.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY FRANCESCA AMARI

Francesca Amari was a freshman in high school when she fell for Gilda Radner. She wasn't alone. Radner won the hearts of America as one of the Not Ready For Primetime Players

on NBC's *Saturday Night* (its original name) when it was in its infancy. There were a few similarities between the two: both were born in Michigan, both were of Jewish descent, and both were performers. Amari felt an immediate kinship with Radner, and her strong physical resemblance to the *SNL* actor did not go unnoticed by anyone who met her.

She had been acting and singing from a young age, but Amari began to take it seriously when she began to appear on the stage professionally in the 1990s. It was during a trip to New York that she found a new medium that would change her focus entirely. "I went to see Barbara Brussell's show *Is There Life After High School*, and I was captivated by the art form of cabaret. That became my thing." She went all in. She took classes, worked at perfecting the craft, and when she finally felt she was ready to write her own show, Radner was at the forefront of her mind.

Her director, she recalls, said "not so fast." "He suggested I don't start out with it, because from then on everybody would always associate me with Gilda Radner. He said I needed to establish my name first." So she did just that. She wrote other successful shows, toured, and continued making her name.

On Jan. 19, Amari will perform her tribute to Radner, *You Make Me Laugh* (accompanied by Wayne Abravanel) at a fundraiser for Temple Isaiah's Twice Blessed LGBT program. The program arranges informational and entertaining events that generally have a Jewish component. Amari's show is the first big fundraiser Twice Blessed has ever had.

Francesca Amari felt an immediate kinship with Gilda Radner, and her strong physical resemblance to the *SNL* actor did not go unnoticed by anyone who met her.

Amari began to put the show together initially in 2010. She reached out to her teacher and mentor, Andrea Marcovicci to direct the show she was creating about Radner. "[Marcovicci] is sort of the epitome of all cabaret in the country. She is a master teacher; and a master performer," Amari says, calling Marcovicci "the queen of cabaret." Marcovicci declined but offered to work with Amari conceptualizing and writing the show.

With the exception of her Barbara Walters' character, Radner never did impressions, and neither does Amari. Although she recreates some of Radner's famous characters, she does not take on the persona of Radner herself. *You Make Me Laugh* is a love song to Radner with Amari's intimate storytelling, a hilarious sing-along, and plenty of music and laughter.

The show made its debut in 2011 at Gilda's Club in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where they were having their first *Gilda's LaughFest*. "It's now an annual event," Amari says, "where they bring in major comedians and it's like a 10-day festival of comedy and music."

Since then, Amari has performed *You Make Me Laugh* at some of the best cabaret rooms in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Diego. The in-demand show was the opening

act at the Joshua Tree International Improvisation festival in 2018, which is where Jonathan Goldman of Temple Isaiah's Twice Blessed program first saw it. "It's a fun, wonderful performance. And it's got multimedia," something Amari recently added after meeting Lisa D'Appolito, the director of the documentary, *Love, Gilda*. D'Appolito got Amari permission from Radner's brother to use some of the family's media.

Losing Radner to cancer at such a young age was not only a devastating blow to everyone who loved her, but also to the world of comedy. In her book, she wrote, "I wanted a perfect ending. Now I've learned, the hard way, that some poems don't rhyme, and some stories don't have a clear beginning, middle, and end."

Radner's story ended way too soon, but she still makes people laugh, and through many different mediums, including Amari's cabaret show, she lives on. And really, isn't that the perfect ending?

"You Make Me Laugh" A Love Song to Gilda Radner, 3 p.m. Jan. 19, Temple Isaiah Warsaw Ballroom, 332 W. Alejo Road, Palm Springs, 760-325-2281; templeisaiahps.com.

Francesca Amari – A little bit of Desert Magic

By [Admin](#) - May 23, 2018

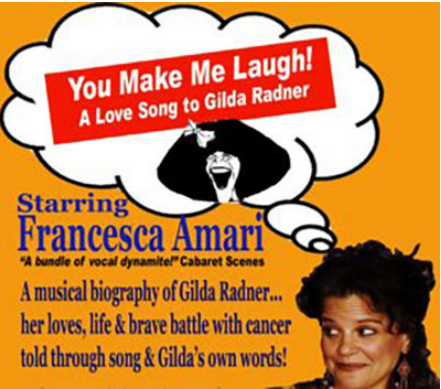
2 Shares





By Dee Jae Cox

Everyone is looking for a little magic in their lives. We find it in the songs we hear, the laughter that erupts from the heart, the emotions that are inspired by a moving performance or piece of art. We search for the creative connection that passes from one soul to another, as we seek to make sense of our world. Sometimes it’s an escape to the past through music and song and other times it’s what brings us back to the present. But the magic of art is always a necessity in the chaos we call life.



If you’re looking for that little bit of magic to fill the hours of an evening with a mate or with friends, there’s no need to look further than Francesca Amari.

Amari is an imported talent who originates from the mid-west and has performed from coast to coast. Following her heart to Southern California in 2010, she has become a featured desert performer.

I discovered the talent of Francesca Amari when I first saw her comedy duo show, “*Luck be a Lady,*” with Darci Daniels at 360 North in Palm Springs. It was a hysterically funny show and a night that left those lingering feel good thoughts of having laughed too loud and clapped too hard. With her critically acclaimed one-woman show, “*You Made Me Laugh: A Love Song to Gilda Radner,*” performance at the *Purple Room*, Amari had me laughing and teary eyed simultaneously, as she so perfectly channeled the brilliantly talented *Gilda Radner*. Her sexy, sultry performance as part of her ‘*Lost Cherry Cabaret*’ show at Wendy’s Hideout, which is part of Pete’s Hideaway, was the best theatre in the round experience you could imagine.

Wherever she goes, Amari sprinkles, laughter, music and a whole lot of magic. Her dance card is always filled.

Upcoming performances include “***The Mod Squad Variety show***” on Thursdays May 24 and 31st, June 7th and 14th, with Jeff Stewart and pianist Wayne Abravanel at the Copa. (Located at 244 E Amado Rd, Palm Springs, CA) The Mod Squad features a huge variety of fun & music from Mid-Mod Century, The Rat Pack, Broadway and more.



Saturday, June 2nd at 8pm you can see Amarai’s incredible tribute show, “***You Made Me Laugh: A Love Song to Gilda Radner,***” at the Desert Rose Playhouse. (69-620 CA-111, Rancho Mirage, CA) Celebrating Radner’s life with music, stories and laughter.

2

Shares

f

G+

p

2



Amari, will be performing in ‘**Sitcom,**’ presented by *PS Underground*, June 1st, 3rd, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, evening shows. And Sunday afternoon, June 10th will feature her new show, “***Where the Boys Are: Francesca Sings Beatles, Bacharach & More,***” at the Arthur Newman Theatre, located at the Joslyn Center in Palm Desert, which is part of *Les Michaels’ Summer Cabaret Series*.

If Francesca Amari, isn’t a household name in your home, then you haven’t yet discovered the best music, theatre and magic that Palm Springs has to offer.

For more information on Francesca Amari and her awe inspiring shows, please visit:
www.francescaamari.com

Dee Jae Cox is a playwright, director and producer. She is the Cofounder and Artistic Director of *The Los Angeles Women’s Theatre Project*.

www.losangeleswomenstheatreproject.org & www.palmspringstheatre.com.

Admin