

**Not your daddy's cabaret:
Broadway 25 grabs the mike for its third season**

There once was a time when performing a cabaret without a Stephen Sondheim number would be nothing short of theatrical sacrilege. Ditto for Andrew Lloyd Webber. But ever since *Rent* exploded onto the scene in the mid-90s, there has been plenty of room for new stage anthems that don't involve fairy tales or feline vocalists. The cast of **Broadway 25** embraces this evolution as it gets ready to perform a third season of musical selections from the younger generation of The Great White Way.

Broadway 25 is the brainchild of husbands Steve SanSoucie and Rob Wendel. The name comes from the fact that every song in the cabaret's repertoire premiered on or off Broadway in the last 25 years. This premise meant the sacrifice of SanSoucie's favorite Kander and Ebb tunes, but it's all for the sake of being true to the show's theme.

This year's version of the popular cabaret is entitled "Raise the Roof," a title which, SanSoucie admits, evokes a dance floor, not a stage floor. The title actually was snatched from a song from *The Wild Party*, which will open the show. It's a fitting choice, since the cast hopes to stir up the audience with some new "classic" numbers from shows like *Wicked*, *Rent*, *Mamma Mia*, and *Avenue Q*. With titles like "Angel Punks and Raging Queens" and "A Stud and a Babe," it's no wonder that "Memory" would have trouble finding a home in this repertoire.

Wendel says, "Our shows have a definite slant toward the upbeat, light-hearted and comedic." This season's cast includes Wendel as music director and keyboardist and vocalists SanSoucie, Robin Burrage, and Keri Boisclair. The two-act show will present a combination of ensemble numbers and solos, including a few that promise hilarious interpretations of the lyrics. SanSoucie slyly refers to some "surprises" that will also take place during the show.

For those who think a Broadway cabaret is a level up from show tune karaoke night, think again.

"This is not your traditional cabaret where there's an acoustic piano and a singer on a stool," says SanSoucie, ready to assure theatregoers that they're in for quite a treat. The real treat, though, is for SanSoucie and Wendel, who consider themselves lucky to be witnessing their original idea continue to flourish.

"I'm in heaven," says SanSoucie.

***Broadway 25* will run November 11, 12, 18, and 19th at Club Café, 209 Columbus Avenue, Boston, 617.536.0966. Tickets are \$20. Door opens at 6:30; show starts at 7:30.**

www.broadway25.com