

THE  **Clef**  
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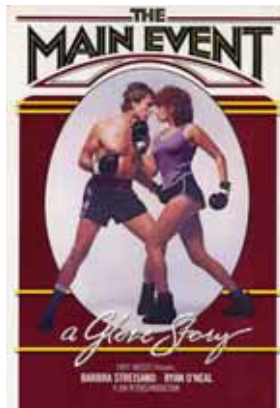
**EXTRA! EXTRA!**

## The Main Event

### Let's Go to the Movies!

One of the country's most popular movie-going weekends, Memorial Day begins the summer season at the shore. Cabaret for Life is marking the holiday with **The Main Event**, a celebration of everyone's favorite movie songs. The show will take place on Friday, May 23, and Saturday, May 24, at 7:30 p.m. at the Barclay in Belmar.

Since the early days of "talkies," music has played an important role in films. When you hear the line, "You must remember this/A kiss is still a kiss," images from *Casablanca* and Bogie flood the mind. Songs like "Moon River," "The Shadow of Your Smile," and "The Summer Knows" can't be separated from their movie soundtracks. In more recent movies, popular songs began as theme songs, including Hollywood hits like "The Morning After," "Can You Read My Mind," and "Speak Softly Love," evoking inescapable images of disaster cruises, hunky superheroes and metropolitan Mafiosos.

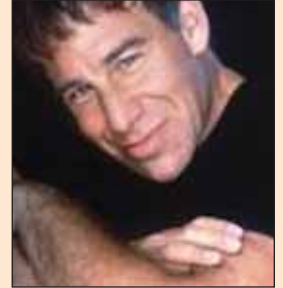


Director Andrew DePrisco will be joined by music director Felix Truex, costumer Fred Mayo, and choreographer Erin McNerney to create **The Main Event** with a cast of cabaret singers and dancers as we present decades of the best (and worst!) movie songs that have graced (and disgraced!) the big screen. From the brassy swoop of Shirley Bassey's "Goldfinger" and the folky lilt of Simon and Garfunkel's "Mrs. Robinson" to the warbling tones of Streisand's "The Main Event" and the full-time country twang of Dolly Parton's "9 to 5," there will be entertainment (gasps of recognition and horror!) for audience members of all ages.

The donation per person is \$65, which includes the cabaret show and a delightful four-course dinner at the Barclay. Reservations are strongly encouraged. Tables seat up to ten patrons. Please phone 1-877-CFL-TKTS (235-8587) to reserve.

## Spark of Creation: CFL Salutes Composer of *Wicked*

Cabaret for Life will salute songwriter Stephen Schwartz in a special two-day benefit at the Spring Lake Community Theatre on Friday, October 11, and Saturday, October 12, at 8 p.m. in an original revue of songs by this much-loved Broadway veteran.



Composer-lyricist Stephen Schwartz's Broadway career began in the early 1970s with three astonishing consecutive hits: *Godspell* (1971), *Pippin* (1972), *The Magic Show* (1974). Each of these shows, running simultaneously, would rack up nearly 2,000 performances on Broadway and introduced the world to Schwartz's wonderfully melodious gifts. Songs like "Day by Day," "Corner of the Sky," "All Good Gifts," and "Magic to Do" became instant standards. Nearly thirty years after *The Magic Show*, Schwartz's magic would strike again with the runaway hit musical, *Wicked* (2003), still flying high (and "defying gravity") on the Great White Way.

Schwartz in recent years has become an Oscar-winning songwriter for the Disney Studios. Among his beloved new film scores are *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Pocahontas*, *The Prince of Egypt*, *Geppetto*, and *Enchanted*. Many of Schwartz's non-hit musicals have become connoisseurs' favorites, even cult shows, including *The Baker's Wife*, which starred a young Patti Lupone, *Rags*, with music by Annie and Birdie composer Charles Strouse, and *Children of Eden*, recently revived at the Papermill Playhouse.

Save the weekend to attend this very special celebration of songwriter Stephen Schwartz, with a cast of wickedly wonderful singers and dancers. Stay tuned to [www.cabaretforlife.org](http://www.cabaretforlife.org) for more details.

# What's So Wonderful!

**Gabrielle Stravelli** received the prestigious Ira Eaker Special Achievement Award at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual *Back Stage* Bistro Awards. This award is named after the founder of *Back Stage* publication and is given to an up-and-coming singer whose performance on the New York cabaret stage holds the most promise for the future.

At the 2007 Gypsy of the Year benefit for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, **Kristin Piro** joined the original cast of *West Side Story* for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion. Kristin shared the stage with **Chita Rivera**, the original Anita, and **Carol Lawrence**, the original Maria. The event was held on December 17 and 18 at the New Amsterdam Theatre and raised just shy of \$4,000,000, a new record. Kristin is currently in Osaka, Japan with a new musical called *Trip of Love*, where she's sharing the stage with **Austin Miller**, "Hot Danny" from last year's "You're the One that I Want," the *Grease* reality TV show.

**Andrea Best**, actually a contestant at the aforementioned *Grease* Camp, is touring with Disney Theatrical Productions' *High School Musical*, where she's understudying the lead role of Gabriella.

The hip-hop queen of Manhattan, **Miss Angelina (Villapiano)** appeared on the cover of *Rachel Ray Everyday* magazine for her "80s Party" issue along with favorite Jersey Girl **Gabrielle Stravelli**. The article was written by **Greg Lofts**. Gypsy diva, **Kelly Ross** performed in the musical *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* at the Bethesda Theatre in Maryland in December.

Growing up all too fast, **Samantha Mancino** is appearing in *Peter Pan* at the Strand Theatre, while **Maggie Carolan Rodriguez** was a Jets *chica* in *West Side Story* at Howell High School.

Seasoned thespian **Bill King** directed *Incorruptible*, a merry play about monks and mischief, for the South Street Players in March.

**Ian August**'s new musical *Treasure Island* was presented at Luna Stage in Montclair. Additionally Ian has eight other short plays that are being produced and/or published this year.

**Bob Angelini** received an award from Garden State Equality at their 2008 Legends dinner for his work on the Matthew Shepard play *The Laramie Project* with the West Park Players at Ocean High School. He recently directed *Bye, Bye, Birdie* at the high school.

Wedding bells are peeling for **Jared Eberlein and Rhonda LaRue**. Congrats! Gaudy, bawdy, sporty **Rutledge Varley** plays Julian Marsh in *42<sup>nd</sup> Street* at the Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City.

Hardly the Rabbi (ahem!), **Ken Wasser** revives his breath-taking Tevye at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Monmouth County's production of *Fiddler on the Roof* in April. Ken originally created the role for Monmouth Civic Chorus in the mid 1990s and has twice portrayed the character for CFL shows.

From beast to mad scientist, **Matthew Truex** plays the title roles in Manasquan High School's production of *Jekyll and Hyde* at the end of April.

Welcome **Kristian James Thaxton**, newborn son to **Doreen Thaxton** and grandson to **Barbara and Lester Owens**.

**Ashley Marinaccio** directed *The Party* at the Gene Frankel Theatre in February. Four milestone birthdays: Happy 4-0 to **Laura Neville, Esq.** and **Chris Farley** and 5-0 to **Anthony Restivo** and **Jeff Norman**.

**Chuck Caudill** established Beartrack Arts & Entertainment in spring 2005 in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. The production company uses local and professional artists and entertainers and provides a venue for the development of local art-based attractions to complement the growing tourism industry in Lee County.

Visit Cabaret Online at  
[www.cabaretforlife.org](http://www.cabaretforlife.org)

for further updates and to join our email list. Send us your good news to be included in "What's So Wonderful!"

## Center a la Carte

Don't miss this year's Center A La Carte on May 16, 2008, at 7 p.m. at the Convention Hall on the Asbury Park Boardwalk. Dozens of the area's best restaurants and bars donate their specialties to make this a truly festive occasion. With great live music and prizes, plus the backdrop of the Atlantic Ocean, this event will be a terrific fundraiser. Cabaret for Life is one of the evening's sponsors, and our Board of Directors will be present at the event. Tickets are \$100 per person.

**Please call The Center at 732-774-3416.**

## Special Thanks

Cabaret for Life and the John Rodriguez Scholarship Committee express their thanks to the many, many generous donors over the past year, especially all of the friends and family of Jeff Norman, whose fiftieth birthday gifts took the form of donations to the scholarship fund. Over \$2,000 was contributed to the fund. Two new scholarships will be awarded this May.

### Passings

Best wishes to the family and friends of Adda Pourmel, the founder of the Red Oak Music Theatre.

### Get Well

Speedy recoveries to one and all. We extend our good wishes to our supporters, Butch Neuhaus, Jack Williams, Marti Bookstein, Evelyn Axelrod, Henny Hessels, and Joann Corrigan.

### Mission Statement

Cabaret for Life, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for service organizations that help people who are coping with life-threatening diseases, especially HIV/AIDS, through the production of musical theater. Cabaret for Life is a completely volunteer organization. While the raising of funds is our principal goal, we strive to be more than a theater company: with the support of the community, Cabaret for Life endeavors to bring talented, caring people together to help other people who are in need.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS

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## New Members for 2008

On Sunday, October 28, 2007, the Board of Trustees and Directors welcomed dozens of CFL Members to a special reception, "Autumn at the Ocean," at the Salt Water Beach Café in Asbury Park. Felix Truex entertained from the piano, along with favorite CFL performers, Marti Bookstein, Jared Eberlein, Leonie Higgins, KJ, Suzanne Ramsey-Restivo, Matthew Truex, and Gabrielle Visser. Thanks to everyone who made this event a success. It's never too late to join our membership roster.

### Our Members 2007-2008

#### Diamond Member (\$1000 per person or couple)

Richard and Bernice Desmond

#### Gold Members (\$500 per person or couple)

Jack and Sandy Abeel

Nancy Karpf

Jeffrey C. and Rita Sherman

William and Doris Truex

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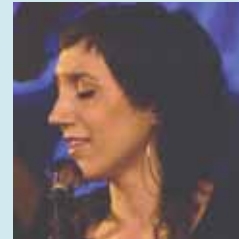
Jack and Nancy Williams

Larry and Diane Wran-Farris

## Applause and Thanks!

The Board of Directors extends their sincere thanks to everyone who performed and participated in *The Rocky Horror Show*, November 9 and 10, 2007, especially director Dan Johnson, choreographer Nicole DeVincenzo, musical director Michael Schippacasse, pianist Bigad Khloussi, costumer Debbie Thime, and the entire cast and crew. Thanks to the generosity and cooperation of Brookdale Community College and its Theatre Club, CFL raised over \$10,000 in proceeds from the event. A shout out to our friends at the Papermill Playhouse for assisting with costumes.

We also thank the cast and crew of our 13<sup>th</sup> annual holiday show, *That Time of the Year*, which took place at The Mill in Spring Lake on December 10 and 11, 2007, especially director Bob Angelini, music director Patti D'Andrea, costumer Debbie Thime, lighting director Jim Lyle, sound designer Jim Schroeder, percussionist Kathy Goff, the Movement Dance Academy, and all of the performers.



## Gabrielle in NYC

**Gabrielle Stravelli will be returning to the Laurie Beechman Theatre (407 W 42nd St, NYC) on April 26 and 28 at 9:30 p.m. Call 212-695-6909 for reservations. Here's her latest rave review from *Back Stage*:**

"Let me just say this about Gabrielle Stravelli, a petite, amusing jazz-pop-rock (not necessarily in that order) singer: I haven't heard a more promising newcomer since I went to Jane Monheit's Village Vanguard bow five or six years ago.

"Vocally, the dark-haired Stravelli has it all, which she proved within brief minutes at the second of two recent Laurie Beechman Theater dates. (She may have never heard the great Beechman, but she's certainly in the tradition of the room's namesake.) Always on pitch and able to blast a note one moment and modulate it to a whisper the next, she sings with American Idol power. But unlike many of those wannabes (always excepting Melinda Doolittle), she understands the intrinsic need to remain musical...

"Her taste in material and in genres is wide-ranging and impeccable. Although she opened courageously with a slow 'Skylark' (Johnny Mercer-Hoagy Carmichael) and included the Johnny Burke-Jimmy Van Heusen 'Here's That Rainy Day' and a lambent 'Speak Low' (Ogden Nash-Kurt Weill) in tandem with Joni Mitchell's 'Talk to Me,' she also mined quality items from '60s and '70s rock groups like Pink Floyd, Steely Dan, and the Kinks. Her version of the last aggregate's war-is-hell 'Some Mother's Son' (Ray Davies) was another bold highlight."

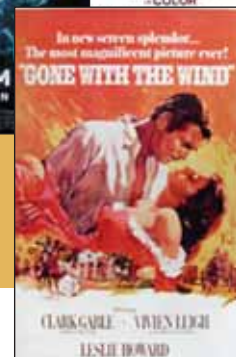
—David Finkle (11-20-07)

Cabaret for Life Invites You to



# THE MAIN EVENT

Songs from  
*Favorite Hollywood Movies*



May 23 & 24, 2008  
The Barclay in Belmar

Call: 1-877-CFL-TKTS for Reservations

www.cabaretforlife.org



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