

The Renaissance

2009-10: volume 28

Cabaret is a musical with a book by Joe Masteroff, lyrics by Fred Ebb and music by John Kander. The 1966 Broadway production became a hit and spawned an acclaimed 1972 film as well as numerous subsequent productions.

Originally entitled *Welcome to Berlin*, it is based on John Van Druten's play *I Am a Camera*, which in turn was adapted from the novel *Goodbye to Berlin* by Christopher Isherwood. Set in 1931 Berlin on the eve of the Nazis' rise to power, it focuses on nightlife at the seedy Kit Kat Klub and revolves around the 19-year-old English cabaret performer Sally Bowles and her relationship with young American writer Cliff Bradshaw. A sub-plot involves the doomed romance between German boarding house owner Fräulein Schneider and her elderly suitor Herr Schultz, a Jewish fruit vendor.

Overseeing the action is the Emcee, who presides as master of ceremonies at the Kit Kat Klub and serves as a constant metaphor for the current state of society in Weimar, Germany throughout the show.

Cabaret won a total of 13 Tony Awards.



May 13, 2010 7:00 PM

On the Screen

In 1972, the movie version of *Cabaret* was released. It was directed by Bob Fosse and starred Liza Minnelli, Michael York and Joel Grey. Even though it shares the same name as the Broadway Musical, it's only loosely based on the show. Only a few of the musical numbers were used; new ones were written. In 1973, *Cabaret* the movie won 8 Academy Awards.



sponsored by
Lock It Up West

sponsored by
Robert J. LeHew & Assoc.

What is Cabaret?

Cabaret is a form of entertainment featuring comedy, song, dance and theatre, distinguished mainly by the performance venue — a restaurant or nightclub with a stage for performances and the audience sitting at tables, often dining or drinking, watching the performance being introduced by a master of ceremonies, or MC.

Cabaret also refers to a Mediterranean-style brothel — a bar with tables and women who mingle with and entertain the clientele.

Traditionally these establishments can also feature some form of stage entertainment: often singers & dancers.

presented by
KeyBank



Moulin Rouge: World Famous Cabaret

Moulin Rouge (French for *Red Windmill*) is a cabaret built in 1889 by Joseph Oller, who also owned the Paris Olympia. Close to Montmartre in the Paris red-light district, it is marked by the facsimile of a red windmill on its roof.

The Moulin Rouge is best known as the spiritual birthplace of the modern form of the can-can dance. Originally introduced as a seductive dance by the courtesans who operated from the site, the can-can dance revue evolved into a form of entertainment of its own and led to the introduction of cabarets across Europe. Today the Moulin Rouge is a tourist destination, offering musical dance entertainment for adult visitors from around the world. Much of the romance of turn-of-the-century France is still present in the club's decor.

Notable performers at the Moulin Rouge have included Ella Fitzgerald, Liza Minnelli, Elton John, La Goulue, Josephine Baker, Frank Sinatra, Yvette Guilbert, Jane Avril, Mistinguett, Le Pétomane, Édith Piaf and others. The Moulin Rouge is also the subject of paintings by post-impressionist painter Toulouse-Lautrec.

"Moulin Rouge" is the title of a book by Pierre La Mure, which was adapted as a 1952 film called *Moulin Rouge*, starring Jose Ferrer and Zsa-Zsa Gabor. Several other films have had the same title, including 2001's *Moulin Rouge!*, starring Ewan McGregor and Nicole Kidman. Both the 1952 and 2001 films were nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture.

