



HITTING THE RIGHT NOTES

Legendary fashion designer, media icon and musical sensation Isaac Mizrahi (isaacmizrahi.com) is bringing his many talents to Irvine Barclay Theatre (thebarclay.org) on March 5. Here, he discusses what to expect from his anticipated cabaret performance and what he's working on next.

BY JASMIN ROSEMBERG

How did you get into music and cabaret performing? I went to Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts in New York City and I started appearing with friends in small clubs. I always did my best to continue appearing at all kinds of clubs, from Joe's Pub to very small places. And now it seems to be my priority; it consumes a lot of my time. I've been working with the same band and musical director since 1998.

Who are some of your musical influences? If Blossom Dearie and Liza Minnelli had a love child, it would be me.

Why do you think your annual musical residency at New York City's Café Carlyle became such a coveted ticket? I think the reason the Carlyle has become so coveted is because when I sing, I tell the truth. Also, in between songs, the patter is unpredictable, and I tell a lot of stories. I treat audiences like my close friends.

Why did you want to perform in O.C. and at Irvine Barclay Theatre? I love Southern California, especially Orange County. I love the attitude and the urbane sense of style. Also, it seems like a sense of surprise and a good sense of humor are welcome there. I seem always to feel very at home there.

What sorts of songs and entertainment can guests expect at your performance on March 5? I have a few surprises that I don't want to spoil. But I will say there are tunes from various sources—as diverse as Stephen Sondheim to Billie Eilish to Madonna to Grace Jones. And as far as the stories, I end up talking about things that feel relevant in my life: social media, sex, remaining relevant after... 50, let's say.

What's next for you, on the entertainment and fashion fronts? Next for me is a lot more performing. I will probably go back to Broadway soon to reprise my role as Amos Hart in *Chicago*. Also, I'm working on a novel, which I hope will be published in the next three years.