

June 24<sup>th</sup>

## THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE 2003

Terracotta Productions in association with Martin Sutherland and James Seabright present

### **MONIQUE: A FRENCH AFFAIR**

Pleasance Courtyard Cabaret Bar. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2<sup>nd</sup>–16<sup>th</sup>, 16.10; 17<sup>th</sup>– 25<sup>th</sup>, 13.20

Edinburgh audiences will be able to enjoy a blast of warm Southern air this August with some "stylish cabaret" (The List) from **Monique**, whatever the Scottish summer has in store. *A French Affair* promises a unique afternoon of refreshingly unusual chansons from a continental cabaret star rapidly making her name in Britain.

Monique, passionate and Mediterranean, sings Barbara, Trenet, Nougaro, Legrand, Fugain, Francois, some early Brel and Gainsbourg, plus haunting numbers from Corsica, in a French show presented in English and spiced with British wit. Showcasing an eclectic selection that reflects Monique's Provencal, rather than Parisian, background, *A French Affair* is packed with intimate, vibrant song, full of Gallic charm, directed by the "queen of musical cabaret" Barb Jungr.

Monique, singing in French, English and Corsican, presents a varied program that includes a Nougaro number newly translated by Des de Moor. Some will be totally new to UK ears, while others will sound strangely familiar: the classic *Comme d'habitude* which later became Frank Sinatra's *My Way* and Barbara's famous *L'aigle noir (The Black Eagle)*. Monique's own songs include some flirty, fun numbers dealing with the French obsession with sex and food, and she also sings two extraordinary contemporary Corsican songs, *Un so micca venuti* and *Corsica*, from a tradition of passion and politics which draws on influences from all corners of the Mediterranean, giving a chance to explore an untapped treasure of European music.

Monique provides an opportunity to expand the horizons of cabaret-goers southwards in Edinburgh this year. But most of all, *A French Affair* is what they all should be: fun.

*"Chanteuse puissante et expressive"* (Le Monde)

*"A spot of stylish cabaret ... creating an atmosphere of real warmth"* (The List)

*"Chanteuse has perfect poise.. refreshingly unusual.. terrific musical support"* (The Stage)

**For more information contact**

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## **LISTINGS**

Terracotta Productions in association with Martin Sutherland and James Seabright present

### **MONIQUE: A FRENCH AFFAIR**

Pleasance Courtyard Cabaret Bar.

August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> (not 12<sup>th</sup>)

2<sup>nd</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August, 16.10 – 17.10

17<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August, 13.20 – 14.20

Press night: 3<sup>rd</sup> August

[www.monique.co.uk](http://www.monique.co.uk)

Tel 0131 556 6550 ([www.pleasance.co.uk](http://www.pleasance.co.uk))

## **Biographies**

**Monique** was born and brought up in the South of France, studying piano, accordion and singing at the Conservatoire in Nimes then travelling extensively throughout Europe and Africa before settling in England. She likes to explore the musical cultures all round the Mediterranean as well as the ways in which French and American/English music have influenced each other, writing her own songs in English to make French music accessible and fun. She is now firmly established in the UK cabaret and theatre scene where extensive tours have included Lichfield International Festival, Pizza on the Park, Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Guildford and The Theatre Chipping Norton.

**Barb Jungr** (Director): Barb has a formidable CV of cabaret and theatre credits and has had great success singing in Edinburgh, London and New York. She has appeared successfully in Edinburgh in 2000 with her show *Chansons: the Space in Between*. For more information see [www.jungr.com](http://www.jungr.com).

**Nigel Jones** (Musical Director): Monique's original and regular collaborator, researcher and co-songwriter, Nigel is an experienced MD with particular interest in the French chansons repertoire.

**Des de Moor** (Translator): Monique will be featuring a new translation from Des who also worked on Barb's chansons CD. He is one of the truly inspired songwriters who can turn a French song into English while retaining its meaning and charm.