

# The Golden Age of Musical Satire

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Theatre Information Pack

## **Financial packages**

**'The Golden Age of Musical Satire'** is available on any of the following financial terms:

- Straight fee : £500 plus vat per performance
- Or straight 80/20 split in our favour over a £200 plus vat guarantee
  - In all cases - **NO** contras
- Normal ticket prices – not less than £12/£10

## **Technical Requirements**

**Get in: 4 p.m.**

**Please ensure a technician is available when the crew arrive.**

**Parking** : Safe parking for one vehicle.

**Sound** : A central auditorium mix position is required and possibly may wish to utilise the house p.a. system.

### **Stage**

- Black box drapes

### **Lighting**

- Four Colour Overhead Wash;
  - Lee 132 (medium blue)
  - Lee 103 (straw)
  - Lee 106 (primary red)
  - Lee 021 (amber)

**\* Close equivalents of these colours is completely acceptable**

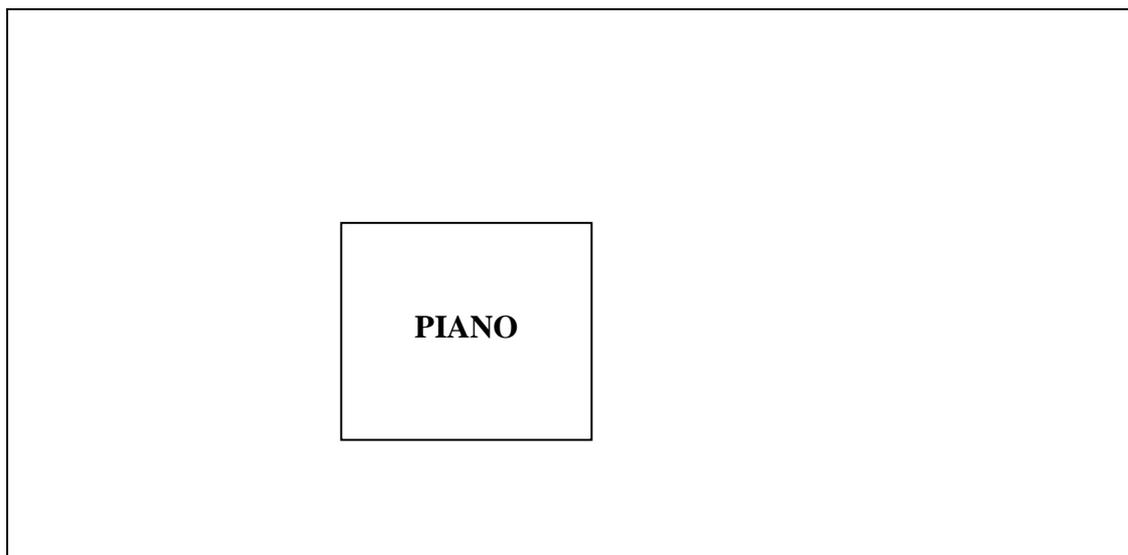
- Specials Required;
  - 1 special (open white/skin tone) from FOH or LX1 to light , piano.
  - 1 special (open white) to be positioned on LX bar behind piano to backlight piano/pianist.

*\* As far as possible, please ensure each special is on a separate circuit as they are used independently of each other.*

- Up lights (red, blue, purple) on the upstage blacks.
- FOH Lighting;
  - Even front light to cover all downstage performance areas and lift face.

*\* If possible, please set general wash before we arrive – specials will be focussed once the set is in position.*

## **Stage Set Up**



AUDIENCE

There will also be some pre-show music provided on both CD and Minidisc

**FOR ALL QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT BEYOND ETERNITY  
PROMOTIONS LTD ON: 01242 587776**

## **RIDER**

We list below the requirements for 'The Golden Age of Musical Satire' and request you to make the necessary arrangements at no expense to the company.

1. **ACCESS:** 4.00pm for get in
2. **PARKING:** Safe parking for one car.
3. **SOUND:** This show travels with it's own sound engineer, sound and piano but will utilise house p.a. and house piano if suitable and available.
4. **LIGHTS:** House lighting and engineer will be used – lighting plan will be supplied.
5. **STAGING:** Black Stage Tabs.
6. **DRESSING ROOMS:** A minimum of one, lockable dressing room with an iron, ironing board and suitable power supply. Access to tea and coffee making facilities.
7. **CATERING:** Light refreshments for 2 (vegetarian) to be supplied no later than one hour before performance – sandwiches and soft drinks are perfectly adequate. 2 bottles of still mineral water.
8. **SECURITY:** Adequate security to be supplied to ensure no public entry to any backstage area before, during, or after the show. Also security measures must be taken to ensure no public access to the auditorium until half an hour before the start of the show. No alcoholic drinks, or glass containers to be allowed in auditorium.

**THE ABOVE CLAUSES ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CONTRACT.**

## **Brochure copy**

Starring renowned entertainer Peter Gill (*The Jerry Lee Lewis Story, An Evening with the humour of Bob Newhart & Tom Lehrer, Let The Good Times Roll, Talbot House – a home from home*) 'The Golden Age of Musical Satire' takes the funniest songs of the last hundred years and throws them together in a 90 minute, one man and his piano show. Songs such as Allan Sherman's 'Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah', Flanders and Swann's 'The Gas Man Cometh', Victoria Wood's 'Barry and Freda', Bernard Cribbins' 'Right Said Fred', Noel Coward's 'Mad Dogs and Englishmen', Monty Python's 'Always Look On The Bright Side of Life' and Tom Lehrer's 'Poisoning Pigeons in the Park'.

This show will appeal to anyone old enough to have developed a sense of humour - whether they are hearing the songs for the first time or the hundred and first time.

*For immediate release*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **From the trenches to recession – the comic songs that have gotten us through.**

It has often been the case that when the human spirit is suffering the greatest adversity it has turned to wit and humour to survive. It is no coincidence then that the best comedy and satirical songs were born during periods of the worst hardship.

The British soldiers of World War One were renowned for their wit and sense of humour, spontaneously rewriting popular songs of the time like *It's a Long Way to Tipperary* and *My Bonnie* with their own, darkly comic and bawdy lyrics. The depression period of the 1930s brought forward the great comic lyricists like Noel Coward and Cole Porter. George Formby, with his banjolele became the highest paid entertainer in this country through his suggestive songs such as *My Little Stick of Blackpool Rock* and *When I'm Cleaning Windows*. In the United States, the great entertainer Eddie Cantor was lauded for customizing songs such as *Makin Whoopee* – taking the lyrics to a higher, even more suggestive, level.

After World War Two, constantly fearful of a nuclear holocaust, the darkly satirical songs of people like Tom Lehrer and Randy Newman came to the fore. Lehrer – who claimed Princess Margaret as a fan, was an academic and attracted an educated following whose repertoire included *We Will All Go Together When We Go* – a spirited and energetic song that extols the virtues of a nuclear holocaust by the fact that funerals will be a thing of the past - as we will all be dead, 'there will be nobody left to grieve'.

The more popularist comedy singers and lyricists took a gentler and more accessible stance in the 1960s. Allan Sherman's *Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah*, Bernard Cribbin's *Right Said Fred* and practically the whole repertoire of Flanders and Swann signified the healthy economic conditions of the decade with light-hearted ballads that are still as humorous and harmless today as they were half a century ago.

In the interim years we have enjoyed the songwriting talents of the Monty Python team, Victoria Wood, Billy Connolly and Weird Al Yankovic. Even that legendary comedian with the rubbery face Phil Cool has turned his hand, to great acclaim, to satirical songwriting.

But now, as we are facing the worst economic misery in living memory, where are the comedic songsmiths? Who is there to raise our spirits through the medium of music?

Legendary and dynamically versatile entertainer, Peter Gill (*The Jerry Lee Lewis Story, Let The Good Times Roll, An Evening with the humour of Bob Newhart & Tom Lehrer, Talbot House*) returns to the nation's stages in a one man and his piano show dedicated to those songs, performers and composers that have sought to make us laugh over the last century or so. A 90 minute performance of pure enjoyment that veers from the darkly comic to the inanely silly to the frankly hilarious. If there is a remedy for the depression we are all feeling, it is this feel-good show and doctors that aren't prescribing tickets yet, surely will be soon!

*The Golden Age of Musical Satire* will be appearing at \*\*\*\*\* on \*\*\*\*\*. Box office number \*\*\*\*\*

**Ends**

**Notes for Editors:** For further information, to arrange interviews or to order review tickets please telephone Beyond Eternity Promotions Ltd on: 01242 587776.