

**Melinda Hughes returns with raucous cabaret
evening parodying opera ~~battle-ax~~ diva
Clemenzia von Trunksale's Opera Box
at Crazy Coqs on 6 November**



**Crazy Coq's - Brasserie Zedel, Piccadilly
Wednesday 6 November at 7pm**

Melinda Hughes Clemenzia Von Trunksale
Jeremy Limb composer and comedian

'so clever...every pun hit the mark'
The Times

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uo6g3asb5X0>

Political-satirist and stand-up comedian Melinda Hughes is back at **Crazy Coq's** for a raucous cabaret evening parodying the "greatest" opera diva roles with her persona **Clemenzia von Trunksale**, with a Victor Borge-meets-Dame Edna Everage swagger. With her penchant for delusional characters – from Melania to non-doms and brides – Hughes reignites her first love for opera with side-kick composer and comedian Jeremy Limb to take on **La Divina**. With mock Callas-like delivery to cover-up her humble origins and waning prowess, Clemenzia soars the heights of Wagnerian and Handelian arias with unabashed panache, even if the cracks are starting to show. No plot-line is unsurmountable, no ecstatic aria too long, no vendetta too tormented, no trans-dressing more non-binary, no

accompanist more down-trodden, every opera trope is tackled with the utmost sophistication. Finally virtuoso violinist Elly Suh mounts the operatic stage for the final battle - Waxman's Carmen Fantasie. Will the virtuoso win? Will the battle-worn diva finally die? Her long-suffering pianist can only hope.

Melinda Hughes has tread the boards as a fully-fledged opera singer with the leading houses across Europe, until injury disrupted her flourishing career in her prime. After a flurry singing Weimar cabaret songs, Melinda Hughes has developed her comic sketches and political satire, sharing the stage with Barry Humphries and Rowan Atkinson, singing her way to laughter. Finalist in the **Funny Women Awards**, she has tremolo-ed with everyone who is anyone in opera from Sir Bryn Terfel to Roderick Williams and Joseph Calleja. During lockdown stuck in a Caribbean cabin, Hughes created a flurry with **The Cobblers Live Festival Barbados**.

Melinda Hughes



Melinda Hughes graduated with honours from the Maastricht Conservatory of Music, The Netherlands and returned to London as a post-graduate at the Royal College of Music. She completed her studies at The Brussels Opera Studio then toured Europe for three years as the soloist with the André Rieu Strauss Orchestra with frequent appearances on television.

Operatic roles include Aida (Dorset Opera) Tosca, The Countess, Madame Butterfly (Diva Opera, Longborough, CAMI USA tour,) Mimi (Diva), Fiordiligi (Opera Interludes, London City Opera) Violetta (Central Festival Opera & European Chamber Opera), Gilda and Frasquita, (ECO), Konstanze (BYO), Donna Anna, (Pavilion), Pamina (Idee fixe Chateau de La Hulpe), Lisa (La Sonnambula), Euridice, Frau Fluth, Nedda, (Kentish) Ninette (l'amour pour Trois Oranges), Rachel (La Juive), Marzelline (Leonore -Chelsea Opera Group) as well as Mendelssohn's Midsummer Night's Dream (Auditorio Nacional, Madrid) Haydn's Creation, Mozart's Mass in C minor, Britten's War Requiem, Pergolesi's Stabat Mater, Mahler's 4 and Händel's Messiah, (Cordoba, Spain & Oxford Philomusica.)

Melinda's CD '**Smoke and Noise**' featuring songs by Mischa Spoliansky received fantastic reviews in the UK and the US. Melinda has appeared frequently on BBC Radio 3's In Tune with Sean Rafferty. Her second CD '**Weimar & Back**' is also available on the Nimbus Alliance label.

Melinda won critical acclaim at the 2018 Edinburgh Fringe with her newly written show **MARGO half woman, half beast** about Berlin Cabaret star Margo Lion and continues to be a specialist in the Weimar Cabaret genre.

One of the top three finalists in the 2019 **FUNNY WOMEN** Awards for her show **Off the Scale**, Melinda Hughes is a Weimar specialist, comedian and political satirist who regularly performs at the Edinburgh Fringe, The Cobblers Live Festival Barbados and Crazy Coqs Zedel.

Together with her co-writer Jeremy Limb, she has performed with Barry Humphries on **BBC Radio 4** as well as festivals around the world. Her CDs **Smoke and Noise** and **Weimar & Back** (Nimbus) won critical acclaim in The US and UK, while her dramatic musical '**Margo**

half woman, half beast' about the Berlin Cabaret star Margo Lion received five star reviews at the 2018 Edinburgh Fringe.

Her show ***Off the Scale*** won critical acclaim at the 2019 Edinburgh Fringe and has gained her the reputation as one of the UK's leading musical comedians.

melindahughes.com

For more information on any of the above, please contact

Nicky Thomas Media

Unit 12 The Stableyard, Broomgrove Road, London SW9 9TL

+44 (0)20 3714 7594 | +44 (0)7768 566 530

info@nickythomasmedia.com

www.nickythomasmedia.com