

2022 HOLIDAY SPECIAL
ON THE SINGING CIRCUIT

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
So much happened this year.
I slowed down on my *COVID Diaries*
and have decided to return to
ON THE SINGING CIRCUIT...

So, to begin...working backwards I had two Christmas shows this year!! Many thanks to John Philip and Andrew Loren Resto of *3A Productions* (Kudos as well to James Moore, Stage Manager of *3A*) who booked *Bronwyn's Christmas Show* in Hudson New York to accompany by annual show at *Don't Tell Mama* here in NYC. How much fun was all this! Special thanks to the great special guests who made it all happen: At *DTM* we had J. Dolan Brynes, Uke Goldberg, Marc McBarron Kessler, J. Michael Reeds, John Philip and in Hudson we had Terrence Law, Miranda Moirai, Andrew Loren Resto, John Philip, Phil Mougis and in both shows the grand accompaniment of Woody Regan. Special thanks to be extended to as well my dear friend Marty Deane who is my unofficial outreach director who reaches so many people in our cabaret community and of course, Alana Hauptmann of the *Red Dot* who hosted the Hudson show, performing as well and leading us all in sing-along song!!

It was a happy time in each venue. Many thanks I extend to the performers and audience as well.

I have had a Christmas Show since 1984. All of this century *Bronwyn's Christmas Show* has been in the NYC Cabaret clubs and before that other community venues such as YWCA's, homeless and youth centers. I do it to keep me focused on the beauty and joy of the season. It is hard to be melancholy when walking down the street humming lyrics I need to remember for the show..."City sidewalk, busy sidewalks dressed in Holiday style, in the air there's a feeling of Christmas..." and other favorite carols. But as I said, in the show, it is hard sometimes to be happy. The older you are the more people we loved we have lost. Just this year we lost Jay Rogers, Melvyn Stevens, Timothy Lundford Stevens and Barry Harris and there are all the many other family members and friends such as Jerry Scott and Bobby Kneeland and so many dear others, and I am not alone. I know many struggle to keep spirits up during the holidays. So, I do the *Bronwyn's Christmas* and I thank you all for being there and putting your best foot forward and lending support! Yay!!!

Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah! Glorious Kwanza! And Joyful Times!!

See you next year!!

Other highlights of the year include the show *POEM*. That featured the poetry of George R Carr and original music of Woody Regan. This we performed in the Spring and the Summer under Equity contract with *3A Productions*, under the direction of John Philip. (Woody's and George's song *Rapture I* happily included in the "Star Sequence" in the *Bronwyn's Christmas Show*.)

Throughout this year we have continued with *SIP Zoom Theatre*. There are still many for many good reasons are still reluctant to join the fray in public events. I am grateful that one benefit of the Covid crisis is that I have learned Zoom and am able to stay in touch with such great artists and philosophers that include the lovely jazz singing of Naoko Takahashi and Carol Randazzo. Hopefully in the New Year we will meet live and in person!!

My visual work has expanded this year. I have done a series of paintings on what I call *On The Singing Circuit*. This includes paintings of performers and patrons from *The Monster, Marie's Crisis* and *Julius'*. Also, a series called *The Patriots*: Bennie Thompson, Jamie Raskin, Liz Cheney, Adam Kissinger, Adam Schiff, William Barber, Cassidy Hutchinson and others. And of course the *Coney Island Pictures*, this includes my advent into watercolors. One of my New Year Resolutions is to find a venue for a show.

Last but definitely not least is the work that we did evolving from the *SIP Zoom Theatre* called *On The Staten Island Ferry*. This is a political revue I wrote that also features the writing of Naoko Takahashi, James Tomkins and Carol Randazzo and music by Phil Mougis. We took it at an early development stage to a senior center in the West Village, *Our Lady of Pompeii* as well as rehearsed at *St. John's in the Village*. Marc McBarron Kessler, James Tomkins, Melvyn Stevens, Marian Hart and James Razzo were performers in this development. The goal was to address the crisis of democracy in this country and to engage seniors and young people in the importance of voting rights and civic education. This work is not done. Another New Year's Resolution is to continue...

“On the Staten Island Ferry,

I hear the lilt of other lands as excitedly they group cell phones in hands,

Taking pictures everywhere of themselves with Lady Fair,

The Statue of Liberty,

Hope of Democracy...”

(lyrics Bronwyn Rucker, music Phil Mougis)

