



Press Release

***Listen to My Heart, The Songs of David Friedman* - European Premier
Marlborough Theatre, 23rd - 27th May
23rd - 26th at 6pm 27th at 10pm**

Songs from one of America's greatest living composers and lyricists showcased in a sophisticated and heartfelt musical revue by an exceptional cast.

David Friedman's New York hit has been reworked for the Brighton Festival in collaboration with the writer. *Listen to My Heart* presents 2 extraordinary song cycles interweaving the lives of both friends and lovers in a thrilling, humorous and often moving journey that perfectly captures the human spirit in all its forms.

"Surprising! Affecting! Conveys a powerful emotion with clarity and simplicity" New York Times

David fully supports the show and the production team is aiming, through the festival, to take one step closer to a London run which David will be joining as Musical Director.

David Friedman's previous work includes conducting and arranging music for Disney classics *Beauty and the Beast* and *Aladdin*, *Pocahontas* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. This led to David's writing music and lyrics for Disney's, *Aladdin* and *the King of Thieves* and to scoring three animated television series and the film *Trick*.

As a record producer, David started his own company, Midder Music Records, and wrote for and produced all of the late, great **Nancy LaMott's** CD's. David's songs have also been performed and recorded by luminaries such as **Diana Ross** (*Your Love* - Quadruple Platinum), **Barry Manilow**, (*We Live on Borrowed Time* and *You're There*) **Petula Clark**, Laura Branigan, Jason Alexander, Laurie Beechman, Lainie Kazan, Leslie Uggams, Kristen Chenoweth, Heather Headley, **Kathie Lee Gifford** and many others.

Brute Farce Theatre Company was formed in 1996 and quickly established itself as a creative, energetic and highly regarded touring company. Productions have spanned from the classics to new writing including celebrated productions of *Doctor Faustus*, *Frankenstein*, *King Ubu* and *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*.

Directed by Joseph C. Walsh
Musical Director Alexander Rudd
Associate Musical Director Christopher Peake

Starring

Nikki Gerrard, Manny Lipman, Betsy Pennington, Alan Richardson, Russell Whitehead

Joseph C. Walsh was born and brought up in the US. He came to the UK in 2003 to study for an MA in Theatre Direction also at Goldsmiths College. Joe, Rob and Gemma met on the 2003 Edinburgh production of *Burke and Hare*. Joe went on to work as Assistant Director on *Coyote on the Fence* in the West End and *When Harry Met Sally*. Joe first produced *Listen to My Heart* at the Brockley Jack Theatre in May 2005 after visiting David Friedman in New York to discuss bringing the production to the UK.



LISTEN TO *My Heart* The Songs of David Freidman

Rob Crouch and Gemma Sessions have worked together on several theatrical projects over the last 2 years including *Burke and Hare* for the Edinburgh Festival 2003, *Ubu Disco* for the Edinburgh Festival 2004 and several productions for the Brockley Jack Theatre in London. They both have an MA from Goldsmiths College in Performing Arts and Theatre Direction respectively. Rob is both an actor and director and one of the Artistic Directors of Brute Farce Theatre Company. This is their first foray into Theatre Producing.



Nikki Gerrard Record deal with Dress Circle, *Side by Side* by *Sondheim* **Manny Lipman** *Sunsets and Mornings* **Betsy Pennington** *Footloose* **Alan Richardson** *South Pacific* - Radio 2 **Russell Whitehead** *Voice of Musical Theatre* finalist.

Listen to My Heart is previewing at Wallacespace, Covent Garden on the 18th May. The cast will also be singing a selection of songs at Dress Circle, Monmouth Street, Covent Garden on 20th May.

For more information see www.brutefarce.co.uk/listen.htm or call Gemma Sessions on 07903125118