

MEDIA RELEASE: August, 2008

MIRAGE MAKERS Present *Noël It All!*

John Michael Swinbank *Sings* Noël Coward
with Tim Cunniffe at the piano

Melbourne Debut: Chapel Off Chapel September 19 & 20

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Image by Ross Swanborough

Cabaret rover at the Chapel for Melbourne Debut

Renowned for his ripping renditions of theatre legend, Noël Coward's songs, cabaret singer John Michael Swinbank will make his Melbourne debut at Chapel Off Chapel with *Noël It All!* on September 19 and 20.

John Michael said that he was looking forward to sharing his 25 year passion for Coward's stylish work with Melbourne audiences.

"At this point in my long career, I now realise there are two things synonymous with style, Noël Coward and Melbourne.

"If flattery will get me everywhere, then I know Melbourne is clamouring to share the humorous, outrageous and insightful wit of Coward's timeless lyrics. I want us to ache from belly laughs at ourselves and a world gone mad," he said.

John Michael was in town earlier this year playing a spectral Sir Noël Coward who haunted HM the Queen Mother in the irreverently reverent, *Two Old Queens*.

Manager of Chapel Off Chapel, Rachel Fothergill said the production was received exceptionally well at the Prahran venue, renowned for its very strong cabaret programming.

"Our audiences are still raving about the *Two Old Queens* performance. "Even Noël Coward has rocked the Chapel, now!" Ms Fothergill said.

In *Noël It All!* John Michael and long time accompanist Tim Cunniffe take a closer look at Coward's lyric gift with a delicious tour through Coward's greatest comedy songs.

Witty classics include *Don't Put Your Daughter on the Stage*, *Mrs Worthington* and his signature bittersweet tune *I'll See You Again*. Delicious titbits of Coward contemporaries, Cole Porter and Stephen Sondheim are also featured to remind us just how good Sir Noël was at the pithy phrase and the haunting melody.

John Michael gained an international reputation for his affinity with Coward's material through some 20 tours, blazing a trail across the Far East, Middle East and India, frequently in the footsteps of Coward himself. Invitations quickly came from the Thai Royal

Family, QE2 and Raffles Hotel, alongside a special invitation to fire Hong Kong's Noonday Gun (immortalised by Coward in *Mad Dogs & Englishmen*).

Later this year, John Michael travels to London to perform for the Noel Coward Society to mark the Master's birthday at famous thespian watering-hole, The Garrick Club.

Serendipitously squeezed into Chapel Off Chapel's heavily subscribed programme, *Noel it All!* will be presented in the Chapel space for three performances only, including a matinee.

Tickets are limited with some availability of cabaret tables. Bookings can be made on (03) 8290 7000 or online www.chapeloffchapel.com.au

EXCELLENT IMAGES AND INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE:

CONTACT DARREN RAY 0413 334 523

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Chapel Off Chapel, 12 Little Chapel Street, Prahran

8pm Friday & Saturday 19 & 20 Sep & 2pm 20 September, 2008

Bookings: www.chapeloffchapel.com.au or (03) 8290 7000

www.miragecorporation.com