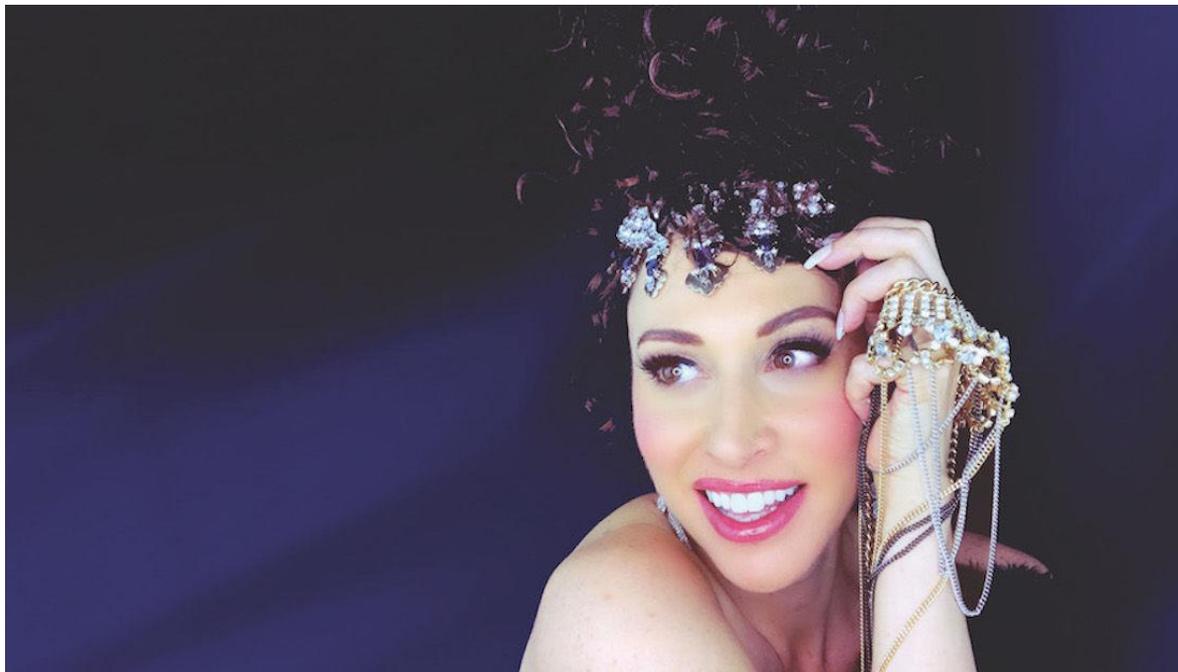


http://www.centraljersey.com/time_off/lesli-margherita-is-returning-to-the-bucks-county-playhouse-with/article_d58de24c-f7b9-11e7-8413-3b889be087ff.html



Lesli Margherita is returning to the Bucks County Playhouse with a show featuring some of her favorite songs

By Anthony Stoeckert Jan 12, 2018



Lesli Margherita will bring her show "This Broad's Way" to the Bucks County Playhouse, Jan. 20.

Last summer, Lesli Margherita wowed audiences at the Bucks County Playhouse with her portrayal of Miss Adelaide in the theater's standout production of "Guys and Dolls." Now the award-winning performer is ready to return with a brand-new cabaret show.

"This Broad's Way," which Margherita will perform in New Hope, Pennsylvania, Jan. 20, will feature her versions of Broadway showstoppers, along with some country songs and pop hits. The show, which she wrote, also will include stories about her life and career.

"They asked me a few months ago if I wanted to do one of my cabaret shows at the theater, and of course I said I would love to because I had such a great time up at Bucks," Margherita says. "I have a couple of cabaret shows that I do but I really wanted to bring something new to the Bucks County audiences."

She also wanted to work in a number from "Guys and Dolls," along with songs from shows she's appeared in, and some numbers from musicals she would like to appear in.

"I've never done a show actually of largely Broadway show stoppers and big Broadway hits, so it came from there and how I perform them," Margherita says. "So that was where 'This Broad's Way' came from. It's songs that are from shows I've been in and shows I want to do. Everything's in there, it's not just Broadway, there's country in there, a couple of pop songs we've redone that sound different. So there's really something for everybody."

Margherita grew up in California and started dancing when she was 4. She began auditioning for shows when she was 9 and performed in community theater throughout high school. Her career has seen her win an Olivier Award (which honors theater in London) for her role as Inez in the West End production of "Zorro the Musical." In 2010, she made her Broadway debut in "Matilda the Musical," and also was in the 2015 Broadway revival of "Dames at Sea."

She also appears on the television shows "Homeland" (on Showtime); "Instinct" (on CBS) and "Seven Seconds," which is set to debut on Netflix in February.

"I knew from age 10 that this is what I was going to do," Margherita says. "It's literally been non-stop since I've been 10, just pursuing it."

"This Broad's Way" not only gives her a chance to sing songs from shows she'd love to be in, it also allows to put a different spin on songs from shows she has sung.

"You can't re-create something that you did in a show — you don't have a costume, you don't have anybody else to sing with," Margherita says. "I'm doing 'Suddenly Seymour' from 'Little Shop of Horrors' because Brett Ryback, my musical director who did 'Murder For Two' at Bucks County, he and I did 'Little Shop of Horrors' together."

She's also doing songs from shows she did as a kid, such as "Tomorrow" from "Annie." Singing that as an adult, she says, is much different from singing it as a child.

"I don't even think as a kid you really think about lyrics, you just sing them," Margherita says. "But looking back, they're beautiful lyrics about hope. It's especially needed now, there's so much stuff going on in the world. It's so simple but it's a beautiful song about hope and rising back up when you've been knocked out. So I love looking back at songs like that because it means something to me now, whereas when I was 10 it was just me belting it out on a stage."

Margherita says she'll also sing songs made famous by legendary performers from such shows as "Funny Girl" and "Cabaret."

"The heavy hitters are well represented — Judy Garland, Liza Minnelli, Barbra Streisand — it has all these show stoppers. It's a big show."

Lesli Margherita will perform "This Broad's Way" at the Bucks County Playhouse, 70 S. Main St., New Hope, Pennsylvania, Jan. 20, 8 p.m. For more information, go to bcptheater.org or call 215-862-2121.