

**You Make Me Laugh!**  
A Love Song to Gilda Radner

## Starring Francesca Amari

"A bundle of vocal dynamite!" Cabaret Scenes

A musical biography of Gilda Radner...  
her loves, life & brave battle with cancer  
told through song & Gilda's own words!

Andrea Marcovicci, Creative Consultant  
Shelly Markham, Music Director  
Clifford Bell, Co-pilot

### Booking info:

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## Introducing... **Francesca Amari**

starring in:

### "You Make Me Laugh: A love song to Gilda Radner"

To commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gilda's Club in Grand Rapids, Michigan, popular cabaret vocalist Francesca Amari created a new cabaret show to debut in March, 2011 at a 10-day laugh festival called, *Gilda's LaughFest*, which included such luminaries as Bill Cosby, Betty White, Margaret Cho and more.

Amari developed the show with the input of nationally-renowned cabaret star *Andrea Marcovicci*, known as "the Queen of Cabaret," who served as her creative consultant. The show highlights moments of Gilda's fascinating life, including her rise to stardom, her marriage to Gene Wilder and her struggle with cancer. Much of the material comes from Gilda's autobiography, *"It's Always Something"* and her Saturday Night Live writing partner and friend, Alan Zweibel's account of their relationship, *"Bunny Bunny."*



*"Francesca Amari has accomplished something truly remarkable with her "Love Song to Gilda Radner". Because of her sunny disposition, her clear strong voice and her thoughtful spot-on song selections, this heartfelt loving tribute will surprise you, delight you, and leave you laughing and crying at the same time." -- Andrea Marcovicci, "Queen of Cabaret"*  
[www.marcovicci.com](http://www.marcovicci.com)

Also on the creative team for the show is Marcovicci's long-time collaborator, Shelly Markham, who serves as Music Director; and cabaret producer/director *Clifford Bell* and comedy writer Shelly Goldstein. The show features music from the American Popular Songbook, pop music, Broadway and the cabaret world, and includes such gems as "Pure Imagination," Markham's "You Make Me Laugh," "My Pa" and "Honey (Touch Me With My Clothes On."

Amari cites Gilda Radner as one her long-time heroes, since discovering her on SNL during her high school years.

*"I had a great creative team whose input was invaluable as I created the show," says Amari, "the best in the cabaret business. And I love Gilda Radner so much, that this show is a pure delight to present! My goal, ultimately, and my purpose for creating the show, is to tour with it to raise money and awareness for cancer awareness, programs and Gilda's Clubs all over the country."*

*"Amari looks a lot like Radner, though that isn't particularly important. What is important is the truth and sincerity in her singing, the earnest way she delivers a lyric and the honesty of her feelings that comes through again and again."*

Elliott Zwiebach,  
*CabaretScenes Magazine*

**For dates and more information about the show, please contact:**

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**MP talent**  
MANAGEMENT GROUP



# CABARETSCENES

## Francesca Amari

### You Make Me Laugh: A Love Song to Gilda Radner



M Bar ~ Hollywood, CA  
April 9, 2011

If you loved Gilda Radner, have I got a show for you! It's Francesca Amari saluting the woman she continues to admire. It's not a "greatest hits" show, since Radner was not a singer. Rather, it's a biography of the *Saturday Night Live* comedienne who created such characters as Lisa Loopner, Emily Litella, Judy Miller, Baba Wawa and Roseann Roseannadanna. Amari did brief imitations of each one, just to remind the audience how they sounded, but she does not try to become Radner, nor to reproduce her sound, but simply to tell her story.

Amari looks a lot like Radner, though that isn't particularly important. What is important is the truth and sincerity in her singing, the earnest way she delivers a lyric and the honesty of her feelings that comes through again and again — particularly on "Bring on the Rain" (Billy Montana/Helen Darling), a ballad of defiance sung with tremendous power by Amari at the point in Radner's life when she began her battle with ovarian cancer.

Significantly, despite knowing how Radner's life ended, the show is never maudlin. Amari keeps the tone light and bubbly and humorous and uplifting, much as Radner did, even in her darkest days.

Amari sets the evening in motion with "You Make Me Laugh" — written by her Musical Director, Shelly Markham, and Tom Toce years ago — to express the joy Radner created, then reprises the song late in the show as a poignant commentary on the star's personal struggles. But the show is mostly fun and upbeat, with Amari noting that Radner was named for the title character in the movie *Gilda*, which featured "Put the Blame on Mame" (Doris Fisher/Allan Roberts) — sung in a sweeter, more innocent way by Amari, in stark contrast with the sexy way Rita Hayworth sang it in the movie.

Amari also recalled an appearance Radner made on *The Muppet Show*, where she did a dance routine to "Tap Your Troubles Away" (Jerry Herman, from *Mack and Mabel*). As she talks, Amari dons tap shoes and then sings and taps. She did well for a novice, but made fun of the moment at her own expense, telling the audience, "At one point I decided, why? Why should I practice?"

Along the way Amari sang a lovely version of "Zing! Went the Strings of My Heart" (James Hanley), in an arrangement by Markham that allowed her to vary the tempo and mood of the song as it progressed; an evocative "Times Like This" (Lynn Ahrens/Stephen Flaherty from *Lucky Stiff*) about Radner's love for her dog, Sparkle; and a pretty version of "Two for the Road" (Henry Mancini/Leslie Bricusse), reflecting Radner's love for husband Gene Wilder.

Amari ended the show with a lovely "Pure Imagination" (Leslie Bricusse/Anthony Newley) from the movie, *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, in which Wilder starred. But she brought the mood back up with her encore, the very funny "Let's Talk Dirty to the Animals" (Michael O'Donoghue) from *Gilda Live*, Radner's one-woman Broadway show.

Amari's show comes with a very high pedigree: Andrea Marcovicci as creative consultant; Clifford Bell as Marcovicci's self-described "co-pilot"; Markham as Musical Director; and Shelly Goldstein as author of some special material. Amari said she plans to donate proceeds from this show, as she tours it, to various cancer groups around the country.

**Elliot Zwiebach**  
Cabaret Scenes April 9, 2011  
[www.cabaretsscenes.org](http://www.cabaretsscenes.org)

## What They're Saying about "YOU MAKE ME LAUGH"...

- "As lovable and original as Gilda herself, Francesca Amari's "You Make Me Laugh" is a much-appreciated look at both the comedy icon and the real life woman behind the laughter." ~Clifford Bell, *Cabaret Producer/Director* ([www.cabarabia.com](http://www.cabarabia.com))
- "What a brave, warm and touching show this is...Francesca has dug deep and found the true essence of a fascinating woman". ~Shelly Markham, *Music Director* to Andrea Marcovicci, Lanie Kazan, Bonnie Franklin, Nell Carter, Julie Wilson

## What They're Saying About Francesca Amari, Cabaret Singer...

- "Ms. Amari, with an abundance of self-reflective wit, and consummate vocal skill, brought us to the heart of the mystery of how and why musicians can be such a powerful force in our lives. (Her show is a) fearless celebration of her alleged squareness." ~David Rabinovitz, *CabaretExchange.com*
- "...a pert Francesca Amari turned "What I Did for Love" into a boldly fervent Broadway reflection." -*Variety*
- "Francesca Amari, a pert bundle of vocal dynamite, performs the songs she preferred listening to growing up — what she calls her "guilty pleasures" — describing the act of revealing these secrets as "something like attending an AA meeting but with a two-drink minimum." Never trying to imitate the original artists, Amari simply reflected the joys of their unique sounds as she put her own spin on each song." ~*CabaretScenes*
- "Great voice, great style!!!!" ~Todd Schroeder, *Music Director for Sam Harris & more*
- "For those in a cabaret mood, yet another local music scene veteran, Francesca Amari, belts out some deliciously funny and grandly entertaining classics here, including "15 Pounds Away From Love" and "Murder, He Says." Amari bursts forth on her latest CD, "Better Days" with some enticing and off-beat standards, accompanied mostly on piano and haunting saxophone." ~John Sinkevics, *Grand Rapids Press/MLive*
- "Francesca Amari is one of those fabulous performers and fabulous people about whom I can claim absolutely no objectivity...Her debut solo CD features a stunningly wonderful version of the Brian Lasser song, Better Days. And the moods on the CD run from contemplative, to sassy, to heartbreaking, to exhilarating, all overlaid with her abundant personal charm." ~Michael Miyazaki, *Cabaret D.C. & Beyond*
- "This is my new favorite CD. Francesca has such an original approach to her music, and every last cut on this disk is a gem. Her voice is spirited, fun, and "sounds" like everything I have loved about cabaret music since I was a kid. Her "who-hoo!" at the end of "Murder, He Says" is a smart and witty touch; her version of "Wonderful, Wonderful" is just lovely (and a very unique take on that song), "Stars & the Moon" is heartbreaking and vibrant, and "Make Your Own Party is my new fave tune ("who needs a donkey? Pin your own tail!"). She also lends a superb comic touch to "15 Pounds Away From My Love," "Murder," and "I Want Them...Bald." I can't get enough of it! ~Jill Leger, *Songwriter*
- "If you missed Francesca Amari's breakout gig last Tuesday at One Trick Pony for her new CD, *Better Days*, you missed a standout evening. The two-hour show consisted of a mix of jazz standards, show tunes, pop, and special numbers. Simply put, she's more than a superb vocalist—she's a delightful and engaging performer, both personable and professional." ~Bob Hartig, [www.stormhorn.com](http://www.stormhorn.com)