

TOUR PACK

VAUDELESQUE PRODUCTIONS presents

# IT'S MISS HOPE SPRINGS

Music and lyrics by Ty Jeffries

Written and performed by Ty Jeffries



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What's the show about?

One woman's journey from The Ritz to the pits...

**Miss Hope Springs was once the toast of Las Vegas.** Now she's down on her luck and highly medicated. Join this recovering showgirl, live at the piano, for an array of all-original songs from her vintage lounge repertoire. You'll hear toe-tapping show tunes, finger-snapping pop and heartrending ballads. All interspersed with hilariously scandalous stories from her **Ritz-to-the-pits** life in LA, Paris and...Dungeness. Still draped in the sequins and feathers in which she fled the Pink Pelican Casino in 1972, this ageing ingénue is no has-been. **She's the ultimate never-was.**

**"Think Minnelli meets Manilow,** minus the lucky breaks" explains Hope's creator: composer, lyricist, pianist, comic actor and singer Ty Jeffries. "Growing up, I was completely absorbed in Golden Age Hollywood and I'm hugely influenced by artists such as Peggy Lee, Judy Garland and Lena Horne. Unlike them, with her backstory of career wrong-turns and a spectacularly disastrous love life, **Hope is the tragi-comic essence of all those showbiz ladies who never made it.**"

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### How was the show developed?

Ty Jeffries has been playing the piano and singing since he was 7 years old. His love for Golden Age Hollywood and its female stars led to the creation of Miss Hope Springs after an elephantine gestation. She sprang forth fully formed at The Brighton Fringe Festival 2010 and in 2011 was awarded Best Cabaret Brighton Fringe.

In early 2012 he was invited by Jeremy King and Chris Corbin of to be resident songstress at the Crazy Coqs in London's West End, now better known as Live at Zedel. In the intervening years the show has played to capacity houses and rave reviews at:

**The Spiegeltent Underbelly Festival Southbank, Wilton's Music Hall London, The Matcham Room at The Hippodrome London, L'Escargot Soho, The Ivy Club Soho, Komedia Bath, Chapel Arts Centre Bath, Komedia Brighton, The Astor Theatre Deal, The Stables Milton Keynes, Norwich Playhouse, Waterman's Brentford, The Groundlings Portsmouth,**

**Digby Hall Sherborne, Wigmore Hall London, Madam JoJo's Soho, The Boards Edinburgh Playhouse, The Wales Millenium Centre, Shrewsbury Arts, Salisbury Arts, The Metropolitan Room NYC, The Duplex NYC, The Gardenia Room LA, The Rrazz Room New Hope Pennsylvania, Martini's Above 4th San Diego and others.**

*"Miss Hope Springs is a gifted performer and songwriter and an accomplished entertainer in the best vaudeville tradition! Her artfully constructed songs will have you howling on the floor one minute and deeply moved the next."*

**Billy Stritch Liza Minnelli's Musical Director**



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### IS THERE ANY FOOTAGE?

Yes! There's some footage: a trailer and vox pops. Trailer and Vox Pops [www.youtube.com/misshopespringstrailer](http://www.youtube.com/misshopespringstrailer)

### FIND HOPE ONLINE:

Website: [misshopesprings.com](http://misshopesprings.com)

Trailer and Vox Pops [www.youtube.com/misshopespringstrailer](http://www.youtube.com/misshopespringstrailer)

Hear more from Miss Hope Springs [misshopesprings.com](http://misshopesprings.com)

Facebook [facebook.com/misshopesprings](https://facebook.com/misshopesprings)

Twitter [twitter.com/FollowMissHope](https://twitter.com/FollowMissHope)

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'A character of uncanny comic accuracy, blending evocative musical numbers with a hint of Vegas. Exquisitely funny and remarkably engaging' **The Stage** Best Cabaret Show 2013

What about wraparound activity?

POST-SHOW DISCUSSION: The Golden Age of Hollywood, Musicals and the stars.

Each performance can be accompanied by a post-show discussion with Ty Jeffries who is happy to talk about his work, his inspiration, ethos and work ethic and how it is possible to bring your own solo creation to the stage.



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Ty grew up between Pinewood and Hollywood while his father, the late actor and film director **Lionel Jeffries**, was making movies such as Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and Camelot. Ty was taught his first jazz chords by Sir John Mills and **he once danced down Sunset Blvd with Fred Astaire**. Shirley MacLaine, Shelley Winters and Diana Dors were family friends and his close observation of those women at first hand lends authenticity to his '*stellar portrayal of a jaded, faded star*' (**Fringe Review**). **Classically trained at The Purcell School of Music**, he is the star of Le Crazy Coqs in London's West End and has toured both the UK and USA, including The Lincoln Centre in NYC. He even put the wig in **The Wigmore Hall** when he performed a sold-out solo concert at London's classical Valhalla. With fans as varied as **Will Young, Marc Almond, Miriam Margolyes, Pete Waterman and Rula Lenska**, you know you are in extremely capable theatrical hands.

### Who is the show for?

This show reaches across the board. Audiences range from 18-80 and beyond. But the main audience is those who enjoy musical theatre and comedy. This is not a typical 'drag' show and shouldn't be marketed as such. It has real depth of emotion and universal appeal. It's accessible to all through it's warm humour and instantly catchy songs which act as sing and clap-alongs.

### OTHER KEY AUDIENCES INCLUDE:

Women of a certain age especially fall for Hope's glamour encrusted vulnerability. But so do their husbands, sons and daughters. There is even a following in the classical world and often there is a table of Anglican vicars who are firm fans. This story of a woman's struggle to make something of herself in show business and the highs and lows along the way connect with audiences on every level. Segments of the show were at one time presented to WAC (Weekend Arts Club) at the Bush Theatre London to an audience of disadvantaged mixed race and ethnic minority kids from the age of 13-18 and they loved Hope - she went down a storm.



Due to some gently mature content the show is suitable for anyone aged 13+.

'It's a measure of how effortlessly Ty Jeffries inhabits his character that for long stretches of his show you forget that you are watching a female impersonator at work. Yes, there's an element of camp in his cult creation, Miss Hope Springs, a droll singer-pianist and ex-



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showgirl whose fading looks are one part Peggy Lee, one part Dusty Springfield. But if camp is a term that nowadays tends to be synonymous with the grimly inept, Jeffries keeps things very classy' **Clive Davis The Times**

### Who are Vaudelesque Productions?

Vaudelesque Productions was created by Ty Jeffries to promote his work as an entertainer, song and scriptwriter. Solo shows of his original songs have also been performed by Xara Vaughan.

### COMPANY BACKGROUND:

**Ty Jeffries:** Ty was educated at The Purcell School of Music. BA in Performing Arts from Middlesex University. Was signed to Bill Martin and Phil Coulters Publishing house at the age of just 16 and, later, a contract with Elton John's Publishing House Rocket Music in 1986. He is best known for his work as Miss Hope Springs but is also an accomplished classical pianist and composer and his solo piano music was featured by Suzy Klein on BBC Radio 3 Essential Classics in May 2019.



### What about the technical requirements?

The show is suitable for studios and midscale spaces, seating between 80 and 150 people as well as as larger venues of 300+.

A microphone on a boom stand, a vocal/piano monitor. A grand/baby grand piano, a full sized Yamaha vintage Vegas style keyboard and shell can be provided.

*Full technical specification will be made available in advance of the tour.*

### Company:

1 performer. Venue tech support required.

### Minimum playing space:

3m wide x 3m deep ( but can squeeze in anywhere if needed).

### Get-in:

From 10am on day of performance.

### Get-out:

1 hour following performance.

### Sound:

Please provide PA suitable for venue.

### Lighting:

Full design available in advance of tour. Pre-rig if available.

### HOW DO I BOOK?

If you are interested in bringing Miss Hope Springs to your venue please contact Ty Jeffries to discuss dates and a financial package: e. [tyjeffries@gmail.com](mailto:tyjeffries@gmail.com) t. 07875865538