

Joëlle Rabu & Nico Rhodes – Full Circle 2020

With a music career spanning over 3 decades, Canadian singer-songwriter-actor Joëlle Rabu is being drawn back to the stage as she joins forces with her son, pianist Nico Rhodes.

A two-time Jessie Award winner and Juno nominee, Joëlle has won international critical acclaim for her theatrical portrayal of the Parisian chanteuse, Edith Piaf, the iconic singer whose recordings were heard throughout Joëlle's French upbringing. Joëlle has toured throughout 5 continents and won numerous accolades for her torch singing style and engaging stage presence. She has starred in numerous theatre productions and has made several guest appearances with major symphony orchestras across Canada and the USA. Well-known for her ability to delve into several musical styles, Joëlle's interpretation of classic European cabaret-style tunes, jazz melodies, and heart wrenching torch songs has left audiences spellbound.

A rising star in his own right, Joëlle's son, Nico was raised on tour with his singer mom and lighting designer dad and a trio of musicians who nurtured his musical upbringing 'by osmosis'. By the time Nico was 16 he had already won several classical piano and jazz saxophone competitions. At 17, he was introduced to musical theatre and he has since directed, arranged and performed in more than 30 stage shows across Canada, and by the time Nico was 25 he had already orchestrated two symphonic shows, one being his mother's nationally treasured musical drama *Tonight...Piaf*. Nico is a gifted arranger who uses his extensive pianistic skills to frame and enhance the intimate power of his mother's superb vocal interpretations. In 2019, Nico was awarded the City of Nanaimo Emerging Artist Award.

The connection that these two versatile performers have on stage is electric. The humorous banter that can only stem from their intergenerational points of view; their life's paths that have caused heartache and laughter; their vulnerability is the fodder that creates musicality and theatricality into an unforgettable evening of lively entertainment and lush musical moments.

As one critic summed it up so well: *"Rabu is Edith Piaf, Bette Midler and Carole Burnett all rolled into one extraordinary performer. Her passion-filled voice is spine-tingling and her stage presence electric."* *"Nico Rhodes' musical ability is nothing short of stunning with breathtakingly fresh sounds and style radiating from this young musician whose hands effortlessly fly across a keyboard leaving us in utter amazement and jumping to our feet at the end of a solo!"*