

Gil Marsalla & Directo Prod present

**EDITH PIAF**  
**OVER 1 MILLION TICKETS SOLD**

**PIAF**

**THE SHOW**

**PROGRAM**

STARRING BY THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED  
**NATHALIE LERMITTE**

**DIRECTO  
PROD**





## EDITH PIAF

Edith Giovanna Gassion, better known by her stage name Edith Piaf, was born in Paris on December 19th, 1915 and died in Grasse, France on October 11th, 1963. She was a French cabaret singer and songwriter and is considered the archetype of French singers and a national treasure. Fifty years after her death, Piaf remains the most famous French performer both in France and the world.

Edith became known as “la Môme Piaf” (The Little Sparrow) from an early age, due to her extreme stage fright and small stature (only 4’ 8” tall). She performed songs that have since become well known classics such as “La Vie en Rose”, “Non, Je Ne Regrette Rien”, “Hymne à l’amour”, “Mon Légionnaire”, “La Foule”, “Milord”, “Mon Dieu”, and “L’Accordéoniste”. Despite a tragic and premature end to her career from severe health problems, Piaf’s robust work led to her international successes and continues to inspire songwriters today.



# ABOUT THE SHOW

With a million tickets sold in more than 50 countries and acclaimed reviews worldwide, Piaf! The Show is a musical celebration of the life and music of the legendary French singer Edith Piaf.

Conceived and directed by the Nice-based theatrical maverick Gil Marsalla, Piaf! The Show premiered in 2015 as a tribute to “The Swallow of Montmartre” on the centennial of Edith Piaf’s birthday and was inspired by the award-winning movie La Vie En Rose.

In two 45-minute acts, the show narrates the rags-to-riches story of the Parisian singer’s career through her unforgettable songs, complemented by a visual tapestry of previously unreleased photographs and images of famous Parisian locations of the Edith Piaf era.

Starring the internationally acclaimed

## **NATHALIE LERMITTE** AS EDITH PIAF

Piaf! The Show stars Nathalie Lermite, French performer considered “Edith Piaf’s legitimate musical heiress”. Singing is her true vocation. At only the age of six, she began performing. On the day she turned eighteen she released her first album “Tu es tout ce que j’aime”. This two single album has sold over 400,000 copies.

1989 marked Lermite’s first steps in musical theater. She played the role of Cristal in “Starmania”, which she performed for three years at the Théâtre Marigny in Paris, continuing to a national tour that ended in Moscow and Saint Petersburg. In 1995, Lermite opened for Michel Leeb at the Olympia with Herbert Léonard. Lermite spent the years following playing a succession of roles in musicals where she was often seen playing the role of Edith Piaf.

From 2009 to 2012, Lermite was a music columnist in the popular French TV series “Chabada”. In 2015, she began playing the role of the Queen in the Molière award nominated play La Petite Fille Aux Allumettes (The Little Match Girl), directed by David Rozen. Since 2018, Nathalie Lermite has been a part of Piaf! The Show’s extended world tour.

**« ... NATHALIE LERMITTE’S SOARING VOICE IS USED TO DEVASTATING EFFECT ...! »**  
**THE GARDIAN, LONDON**

**« ... MRS LERMITTE CAN MIRACULOUSLY CAPTURE PIAF’S SOUL AND TIMBRE ...! »**  
**LE PARISIEN**

**« ... DRAMATIC, WITTY, WARM, AUTHENTIC AND UTTERLY FANTASTIC ...! »**  
**DIGITAL JOURNAL**



Producer and Director

# GIL MARSALLA

Gil Marsalla has studied music since he was 14 years old and has had a rewarding career as a musician, music director, conductor, and artistic director. He has been successfully producing musical and theatrical shows and large-scale events for over 20 years, most recently with his own production company: Directo Productions.

Gil founded Directo in 2001 with the goal of supporting and showcasing emerging French artists. Since 2007, he has been successfully touring his shows worldwide to sold-out houses in North and South America, Europe, and East Asia.

## WORLDWIDE POST WAR SUCCESS OF FRENCH MUSIC

The unique style of French theatrical music, the “cabaret”, developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and is associated with famous venues like the Moulin Rouge and the Lido. It is a famous aspect of French culture that, until recently, you had to come to Paris to experience!

Gil Marsalla sensed a hunger from audiences all over the world to hear classic French songs of the 20th century; songs made famous by great artists like Edith Piaf, Charles Aznavour, Jacques Brel, Gilbert Becaud, and Yves Montand. He decided to produce and internationally tour his own rendition of French cabaret shows. With now more than 1,000 performances worldwide, Gil is considered the leading producer of this kind of work and has unlocked a huge market for this beloved material.

His successful body of work is ever-expanding and includes Paris! The Show (2014) followed by Piaf! The Show (2015), Formidable Aznavour (2017), Piaf Symphonic (2018), Douce France (2019), Brel! The Show (2020), Cyrano, The Musical (2021), What Now My Love (2022), and Aznavour 100 (2023). All are touring worldwide.

Gil Marsalla is very proud to continue to preserve his native country’s musical heritage and to have spearheaded a revival of the French “cabaret” by bringing it to audiences across the globe.

## THE CAST

Nathalie Lermite – Singer  
Philippe Villa – Piano  
Benoit Pierron – Percussions  
Frederic Viale – Accordion  
Giliard Lopes – Double bass

Gil Marsalla – Producer, Director  
Thomas Richeux – Stage Manager

# ACT 1

*CHANTE-MOI  
PLUS BLEU QUE TES YEUX  
LES MÔMES DE LA CLOCHE  
L'ACCORDÉONISTE  
ENTRE SAINT-OUEN ET CLIGNANCOURT  
C'EST UN GARS  
À QUOI ÇA SERT L'AMOUR  
ELLE FRÉQUENTAIT LA RUE PIGALLE  
LA GOUALANTE DU PAUVRE JEAN  
PARIS  
SOUS LE CIEL DE PARIS  
PADAM... PADAM...*

*~ INTERMISSION ~  
(15 minutes minimum)*

The first act offers a window into Edith Piaf's life before she became famous. Imagine that you are on the terrace of a small Parisian café, or on a cobbled square in Montmartre. This is where Piaf spent her earliest years, singing in the streets and depending on the kindness of strangers to toss her their loose change.

A young Edith Piaf enters to the sound of a moody accordion. She sings of her childhood growing up in poverty, and how she longed to spread her wings and fly away like a sparrow. Despite her sad words, there's a smile on her face, because she is no longer that little girl. Edith continues to remember her youth, speaking of how she used to sing for the terraces between Saint-Ouen and Clignancourt, amongst the gangs of street kids, and the scents of french fries and lilacs.

She speaks of her first lovers, and daydreams of those days of innocence. She sings "C'est un Gars" (It's a Guy), about a man who loved and left her in tatters. In "Elle Fréquentait la Rue Pigalle" (You Could Find Her on Pigalle Street), she relays the story of when cabaret owner Louis Leplee discovered her on a corner in the Pigalle neighborhood in 1935, with her sad pale face.

Edith's heart beats for Paris. It's Paris that she sings, with the scent of its chestnut trees, the light in the morning, and the music of its streets. It's Paris that has guarded her since birth and Paris that watches over her as she dances and sings through its cobblestone streets!





# ACT 2

*LES TROIS CLOCHES*

*MON MANÈGE À MOI*

*L'HOMME À LA MOTO*

*MILORD*

*MON DIEU*

*LA FOULE*

*NON, JE NE REGRETTE RIEN*

*L'HYMNE À L'AMOUR*

*LA VIE EN ROSE*

The second act recreates some of the legendary performances Piaf gave after becoming a renowned artist performing on the world's most well known stages. Imagine sitting in the famous Olympia Theater in Paris or at Carnegie Hall in 1957 while Piaf performs one of her last iconic concerts.

Edith Piaf's tumultuous relationship with love continues with the uplifting energy of "Mon Manège à Moi" (You're My Carousel) and the sad goodbye of "Les Feuilles Mortes" (Autumn Leaves). The memories of lost love affairs course through Edith, beating like a wooden heart.

Not one to dwell in sadness, Edith finds herself instead caught in passion during "La Foule" (The Crowd). She is engulfed, buoyed, and carried away by love as powerful and crazed as a rollicking mob. In a different tone shines through "L'Hymne à l'amour" (Hymn to Love) where she bares her soul and surrenders herself entirely to her passion, promising to give up everything - country, home, friends - as long as love would stay by her side. She turns her pleas to heaven in "Mon Dieu" (My God), begging for even one more day with her love. With the world in her thrall, Edith Piaf echoes the delicate and beautiful sentiment of her beloved in "La Vie En Rose". "Hold me close and hold me fast, the magic spell you cast, this is la vie en rose.





**P I A F**

**THE SHOW**