

# OFF THE BOARDS

by Steven Suskin

## Some of Broadway's biggest names opt for more intimate affairs

Two of Broadway's favorite leading ladies are on display this month. First up is **Christine Ebersole**—most recently seen as Elizabeth Arden opposite **Patti LuPone's** Helena Rubinstein in *War Paint*, at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago. She returns to Café Carlyle for two weeks, October 11–22, with her new act, *After the Ball*. Ebersole, who has Tony Awards for *42nd Street* and *Grey Gardens*, will no doubt offer songs by composer **Scott Frankel** and lyricist **Michael Korie**, the songwriters of *Grey Gardens* and *War Paint*. Ebersole always offers a swinging good time in her cabaret appearances, so we can expect an evening of high musicality at the Carlyle.

Then, later in the month, we have the solo debut of **Kelli O'Hara** at Carnegie Hall. The Tony Award-winning star of the recent revival of *The King and I* has also enchanted audiences in musicals ranging from *South Pacific* back to *The Light in the Piazza*. Audiences can hope for a reprise or two from her skillful performances in two recent underappreciated musicals, Frankel & Korie's *Far from Heaven* and **Jason Robert Brown's** *The Bridges of Madison County*. **Dan Lipton** will serve as musical director, October 29.

Also at Carnegie Hall, the sounds of *My Fair Lady* and *Gigi* will be heard on October 14 when **Steven Reineke** and the **New York Pops** kick off their fall season with a celebration of the 60th anniversary of *My Fair Lady*, Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe's Broadway Classic, with *The Musical World of Lerner & Loewe*. **Colin Donnell** (*Anything Goes*, *Violet*), **Laura Osnes** (*Bonnie & Clyde*, *Cinderella*) and operatic baritone **Nathan Gunn** (from the New York Philharmonic's *Carousel* and *Camelot*), along with **Essential Voices USA**, will serenade Pops audiences with songs from *Brigadoon*, *Camelot*, *Paint Your Wagon* and more.

Over at Feinstein's/54 Below, you can catch another up-and-coming musical comedy star, **Kate Baldwin** (*Finian's Rainbow*, *Big Fish*), ahead of her turn as Irene Molloy in the upcoming Broadway revival of *Hello, Dolly!* The New York Times called Baldwin a "redheaded firecracker," and they have a point. She will be accompanied by musical director **Kris Kukul** and promises a few special guests, October 25–29). Also at Feinstein's/54 Below are **Adam Pascal** and **Anthony Rapp**. The two original *Rent* stars have rejoined for *Acoustically Speaking: A 20 Year Friendship*. Their new act will be an evening of song, story and friendship from Pascal (who moved on to *Aida* and *Disaster!*) and Rapp (who is now a prolific playwright, as well as acting in such shows as *If/Then*). The pair will be in for two weeks, October 8–22.

The Broadway Close Up series at Merkin Hall has an extra special guest this month: **Maury Yeston**, composer and lyricist of *Nine*, *Titanic* and more. He will be accompanied not only by **Rebecca Luker**—prominent in Yeston's *Death Takes a Holiday*—but **Josh Grisetti** (*It Shoulda Been You*), **Sally Wilfert** (*Assassins*) and **Corey Cott** (*Newsies*). **Greg Jarrett** will be the music director, October 10 at Merkin Hall in the Kaufman Music Center. Yeston—who started out as a professor at Yale—knows his subject, and is a wise and canny storyteller, so expect an entertaining and informative evening.



Christine Ebersole

KIT KITTLE



Kelli O'Hara

MONICA SIMES



Maury Yeston

STEPHEN LOVEMAN



Laura Osnes

JOSEPH MARZULLOWEAN



Kate Baldwin

JOSEPH MORAN