

INVISIBLE THEATRE - PRESS RELEASE Press Contact: Cathy Johnson or Susan Claassen Administration: (520) 884-0672 Box Office: (520) 882-9721 1400 N. First Ave, Tucson, AZ 85719 cathy@invisibletheatre.com www.invisibletheatre.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# IT continues its 47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season with Recording Artist, Broadway and Film Star

## JULIE BUDD

in

# **REMEMBERING MR. SINATRA**

## **Conceived by Julie Budd**

## **Musical Direction by Herb Bernstein**

Bass - Scott Black, Drums - Pete Swan

#### **TWO PERFORMANCES ONLY!**

Saturday, March 10, 2018, at 7:30 PM Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 3:00 PM

#### The Berger Performing Arts Center 1200 W. Speedway Blvd. Tucson, AZ 85745

(*February 15, 2018, Tucson, Arizona*); Julie Budd, hailed by the *New York Times* as "the consummate performer", has had a critically acclaimed multi-faceted career that ranges from film to Broadway to Carnegie Hall! When Julie Budd was only 16 years old, Mr. Sinatra personally invited her to be his guest artist at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. As Julie recalls, "Mr. Sinatra asked that I would continue to sing these songs and it is always a privilege and an honor to do so". This is a must-see concert "Come Rain or Come Shine"!

This production is made possible in part through the generous support of Sandra Maxfield



#### "Julie Budd -A Show Stopper!"

~SAN FRANCISCO CRONICLE

**REMEMBERING MR. SINATRA** will play March 10 and 11, 2018 at The Berger Performing Arts Center located at 1200 W. Speedway Blvd, Tucson, Arizona.

The single show ticket price is \$42. Additional discounts are available for groups, seniors, active military and students. Rush tickets are available for purchase at half-price one half hour prior to performance time and are subject to availability.

Tickets are available for purchase by calling the Invisible Theatre Box Office at (520) 882-9721 and are also available 24/7 on-line through OvationTix at www.invisibletheatre.com.

The running time is 95 minutes with an intermission.

## THE INVISIBLE THEATRE

The Invisible Theatre (IT) of Tucson, a 501(c)(3) organization, is dedicated to producing quality theatre and arts education experiences for all facets of the community in an intimate setting that showcases local professional talent and guest artists. IT takes its name from the invisible energy that flows between a performer and audience, creating the magic of theatre. Started in 1971 as an arena for local playwrights, the theatre has expanded its programs to include adaptations of classics and recent Off-Broadway plays and musicals, while continuing to encourage new playwrights through both full productions and staged readings.

Under the leadership of Managing Artistic Director Susan Claassen, Associate Artistic Director James Blair, and PR Director Cathy Johnson, IT is strongly committed to community service and outreach programs. The company's current season includes a six play Main Stage season, many special events, student matinees on March 2 and 12, 2018, a world class cabaret series, organizational collaborations, educational tours, seminars that encourage community dialogue and Project Pastime – an educational theatre program for mentally challenged youth.

The Invisible Theatre, the recipient of the first Arizona Theatre Association Award for Best Producing Theatre Company, is a member of the Theatre Communications Group and has long enjoyed both local and national recognition for its strong leadership role in the arts community. Productions take place in an intimate 80-seat converted laundry building. IT celebrates its 47<sup>th</sup> season with an even greater commitment to professionalism, artistic excellence, accessibility, freedom of expression, diverse programming and creative challenge – thus making the Invisible Theatre a very visible force in Tucson's cultural community.

#### **"REMEMBERING MR. SINATRA"**

By Julie Budd

Francis Albert Sinatra.

How fortunate I was, at just the age of 16 years old, to be personally invited by Frank Sinatra to appear with him at " Caesar's Palace " In Las Vegas.

This was, and will always remain, a grand highlight in my life and career. As I perform these selections from those concerts, it always takes me back to those wonderful evenings on stage, and a time that I'll never forget.

So many people do Sinatra Tributes. But not one of them really knew him. How enormously grateful I was for that experience & to have had that time to not only get to know Mr. Sinatra, but to have had conversations & experiences with him, that were so special & unique. Unique because, he was actually very different than what most people thought he was. He was America's greatest and most iconic musical entertainer of all time! Frank Sinatra was in a class of his own & had absolutely no rivals in his field.

"Remembering Mr. Sinatra" is My Personal Tribute, to a man who was kind enough to take a chance on me.

As I stated ....I was only 16 years old, when Mr. Sinatra personally invited me, to perform with him at "Caesars Palace" in Las Vegas. He treated me like a family member & I learned more about music & performance in the time I worked with him than anyone could ever learn in the greatest musical institutions anywhere in the world.

The selections in this concert (along with my CD "Remembering Mr. Sinatra") are a fond remembrance & valentine to the writers .... composers that Mr. Sinatra revered so much.

He passed the baton to me. Asking me, to always perform these songs ... & "To keep the real good music alive"!

And, I feel that is what we have done with this music. I share Mr. Sinatra's passion for this beautiful work. And now, I want to share it with you as well.

Some selections will include: I've Got The World On A String, I'm a Fool To Want You, The Best Is Yet To Come, Come Rain Or Come Shine, All The Way, Don't Get Around Much Anymore & many others.

We pay tribute to Mr. Sinatra's contributions in the arts. Not only for the stellar musician that he was, but as a fine actor and one of the most formidable preservationist of the Great American Songbook. No one ever acknowledged composers & lyricists, musicians and colleagues in the arts, as Mr. Sinatra did.

He was a staunch keeper of the flame, and, I was very grateful that he encouraged me to continue to perform these songs.

.....And, of course ... It was a time that I'll never forget.

## ABOUT JULIE BUDD

JULIE BUDD is one of the most exciting singers in music today. Since her career began, she has appeared on some of the most prestigious stages in the world and alongside some of the most illustrious stars in performance history. This unique experience, coupled with her own dazzling musical gifts, provide Julie with the rare opportunity of bringing something fresh & something legendary to every song she sings. Julie brings heart to her music, making her the quintessential singer of our day; and earning Julie her very own Musical Legacy. While enjoying a celebrated and multi-faceted career in music, Julie's credits also include: television, film, NYC concert halls & theatrical stages; as well as appearing with some of the greatest symphony orchestras throughout the country and around the world!

JULIE BUDD began her professional career at the tender age of twelve, after winning a talent show while vacationing with her family. In the audience was renowned Producer/Orchestrator, Herb Bernstein, who recorded some of the greatest artists ever known to music, including singer/songwriter Laura Nyro. While producing Nyros' first hit album, Bernstein was also recording the eminent TV Talk-Show Host, Merv Griffin. Herb immediately took Julie under his wing and introduced her to Merv at a recording session in New York City. And there, as legend would have it and fate would allow, he heard her sing, *"This Mini Girl with the Maxi Voice"* and invited her to appear on *The Merv Griffin Show*. What followed as Budd's career blossomed, were over a hundred more invitations from Merv to guest appear on his show; and over a hundred more show-stopping performances by JULIE BUDD!

Soon Julie was guest appearing on such must-see TV as: *The Tonight Show starring Johnny Carson, The Carol Burnett Show, The Ed Sullivan Show* and every other major TV and variety show in the country. In the years that followed, Julie performed and co-starred with some of the most legendary stars in show business history, including: Frank Sinatra, Danny Thomas, Joan Rivers & Liberace - to name just a few. As Julie recalls, *"It was such a wonderful way of growing up and starting in the business! These Masters treated me wonderfully and taught me so much! At a time when most kids went to school, I went to work and learned from the absolute best! Each of these great performers was like a professor passing the baton to a student and I was so lucky to have known so many of them."* 

Today Julie continues to perform her concerts and one-woman shows, nationally and internationally, while adding some of the most prestigious stages to her roster: Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, London Palladium, Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center and many of the finest Las Vegas Showrooms. In addition, JULIE BUDD has had the extraordinary distinction of touring with the late/great Marvin Hamlisch, who personally invited her to be his Guest Artist for seven years. And if that's not enough, Julie is a favorite to many of the symphony orchestras throughout the country including: Baltimore Symphony, National Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Austin Symphony, Alabama Symphony, Philadelphia Symphony, Dallas Symphony & Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

Julie's talents have taken her beyond the musical arena and into the exciting world of acting. She has appeared on the New York stage in productions with the esteemed Circle Repertory Company and Playwrights Horizons, as well as on the Broadway stage at the Lunt-Fontanne Theater. She also appeared at the North Shore Theatre in Massachusetts starring in Neil Simon's Tony-Award Winning Musical, THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG. On screen, Julie starred opposite Elliot Gould in *The Devil & Max Devlin* for Walt Disney Productions. It was there that she met dear friend Marvin Hamlisch, who with Carol Bayer Sager, penned three songs for Julie to sing in the film, including its theme "Roses & Rainbows". Other film work includes *Two Lovers* with Joaquin Phoenix, Gwyneth Paltrow and Isabella Rossellini. Julie also recorded the title song for *Amy On The Lips* for Walt Disney and the title song and soundtrack for *Living Free* – the sequel motion picture to *Born Free*.

Julie's recording career includes a wide selection of songs incorporating a broad range of musical tastes and styles, all of which resonate with Budd's own. Her CD, *"Pure Imagination"* (After 9 Touchwood) was in the top ten of *Entertainment Today* and received a four-star rating in *Stereo Review*. This she followed with *"If You Could See Me Now"* and *"The New Classics"* with increasing success!

But it is her more recent, "*They Wrote the Songs*" for which she has garnered the greatest recognition & applause. In it, Julie pays homage to such classic, contemporary composers as: The Beatles, Ann Hampton Callaway, Anthony Newley, Paul Anka & more ... with reviews that have been "Smashing!" and <u>now</u> JULIE BUDD presents her latest CD entitled: "Remembering Mr. Sinatra"!!!

As Teacher of the Master Class, JULIE BUDD adds yet another distinguished dimension to her extraordinary credits with "The Art of Vocal Technique" which is an advanced class and specialized lecture that Julie presents to students, universities and performing arts centers all over the country. Additionally, Julie is currently writing her Memoirs about her incredible experiences as a child prodigy and working with some of the greatest show business legends of all time!

#### JULIE BUDD has just been honored, and inducted into the: "BROOKLYN JEWISH HALL OF FAME"!

Visit Julie on her website at www.juliebudd.com

### **RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION**

To charge tickets by phone, call our Box Office at (520) 882-9721.

You may also visit the Box Office in the Invisible Theatre Lobby (1400 N. First Avenue at Drachman). To buy tickets online 24/7, go to www.invisibletheatre.com and click on the Ovationtix logo. Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express are accepted.

#### WHEELCHAIR ACCESS:

The Berger Performing Arts Center is fully accessible to patrons using wheelchairs or with other mobility challenges. Seating areas to accommodate persons using wheelchairs are located in the theatre. If patrons require special seating they should inform the Box Office at (520) 882-9721.

#### ABOUT THIS PRESS RELEASE:

This mailing list is for members of the professional media and allied organizations who have requested e-mail press releases from The Invisible Theatre. If you no longer wish to receive e-mail press releases or if there is someone else with your organization that should be added to our list, send a message to cathy@invisibletheatre.com or phone Alayna at (520) 884-0672 with your request.

#### **ONLINE MEDIA MATERIALS:**

A headshot of Julie Budd is attached to this press release. The press release and photo may also be found at www.invisibletheatre.com (Press). Photo credit for is courtesy of Julie Budd.

Invisible Theatre 1400 N. First Avenue at Drachman Tucson, AZ 85719 Box Office – (520) 882-9721 Administration – (520) 884-0672 Fax – (520) 884-5410 www.invisibletheatre.com