

## **ABOUT KATHY HALENDA**

A professional actor and singer for thirty years, Ms. Halenda has performed in over 200 productions, including eighteen national tours where her roles included Mama Rose in *Gypsy*, Mae West in *Ziegfeld*, Rafaela in *Grand Hotel*, Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Nancy in *Oliver* and Maggie Jones in *42nd St.* She has played New York City, Washington D.C., Boston, Las Vegas, New Orleans, Montreal, Atlantic City, Los Angeles, and a lot of towns in between. Her extensive regional credits include the title roles in *Mame* (twice), *Hello Dolly* (twice), *Evita* and *Annie Get Your Gun*, as well as Mae West/Jo in *Dirty Blonde*, Mama Rose in *Gypsy* (three times), Miss Mona in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (five times!), Nancy in *Oliver*, Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, and The Plant in *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Ms. Halenda has emceed for numerous benefits and fundraisers nationwide, and has several one-woman shows under her bedazzled belt...she has written and created three of them. Her latest creation, *Somewhere Over the Rose*, is a tribute to Judy Garland and Bette Midler and has been produced in upstate NY and Richmond, Virginia. Her one-woman tour de force, *The Brassy Broads of Broadway*, premiered in New York City twenty years ago at the famous Danny's Skylight Room in Manhattan and has been presented nationwide, including at the Philharmonic Center in Naples, FL, the ArtStation in Atlanta, GA and the Mac-Haydn Theatre in upstate New York. *Sophie Tucker: Last of the Red Hot Mamas* (created by Florida Studio Theatre and co-written by her) was critically acclaimed in Florida, Atlanta, the Walnut St. Theatre in Philadelphia, upstate New York and in 2009 was chosen and presented at the world famous Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC and at the Arts Festival in Charleston, WV. This buxom, brassy broad is comfortable in any room from opera hall to beer hall!

So far in 2016, Kathy has performed as the deliciously evil Queen in *Croaker: The Frog Prince Musical* at Virginia Rep and brought her latest one-woman adventure, *Somewhere Over the Rose*, to the Richmond Triangle Players. In July, she will be playing saucy Aunt Eller in *Oklahoma* at the Riverside Performing Arts Center in Fredericksburg, VA.

In 2015, she played Rose in *Gypsy* (again!) at the Virginia Music Theatre in March. In June, she returned to Sarasota, Florida and was in *Inspired Lunacy* at the Florida Studio Theatre. In September-December, she was Sister Mary Lazarus in *Sister Act* and then Vera Charles in *Mame* at the Riverside Center, with the illustrious Sally Struthers as Gooch.

In 2014, she starred as Mama Rose in *Gypsy* at the Riverside Center in Fredericksburg, VA and was Ouiser in *Steel Magnolias* there in May. In August she performed her *Somewhere Over the Rose* at the Florida Studio Theatre in Sarasota, FL for a four week sold out run.

In 2013, she performed her *Brassy Broads of Broadway* in Sarasota, FL and presented her *Sophie Tucker* at the Naples Philharmonic Center. She was in *Ring of Fire* in VA and starred as Miss Mona in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* in upstate New York. She also performed her *Sophie Tucker: Last of the Red Hot Mamas* at the famous Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia.

In 2012, she starred as Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes* at the Riverside Center in Fredericksburg, VA and brought *Sophie Tucker: Last of the Red Hot Mamas* back to its original home at the Florida Studio Theatre in Sarasota, FL for a fourth sold out run. She also debuted her *Somewhere Over the Rose* (then called *Class and Brass*) at Richmond Center Stage in Virginia.

In 2011, she starred as Miss Mona in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* and performed her *Sophie Tucker* in the Charleston, WV Arts Festival.

**In 2010, she was Martha in *White Christmas* at the Barksdale Theatre and emceed a fundraiser in London, England for The Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.**

**In 2008/2009, she played Mabel on the national tour of *Pajama Game* and was Ms. Lynch in *Grease* in Istanbul, Turkey.**

**In 2007/2008, she starred as Mama Rose on the critically acclaimed North American tour of *Gypsy* and starred as the title role in *Mame* at the Barksdale Theatre in Richmond, VA.**

**In 2006/2007, she was the first female "Singmaster" of the Big Apple Circus, touring the United States east coast, including Atlanta, Washington D.C., Boston and the Lincoln Center in New York City. While in New York City, she received the honor of singing the National Anthem at Madison Square Garden for the nationally televised New York Knicks, and she was asked to sing at Boston's Fenway Park for the Boston Red Sox versus the NY Yankees.**

**The New York Daily News calls her "a red hot mama" and The New York Village Voice calls her "an Ethel Merman style diva". The Los Angeles Times says she has "a magnificent belt voice and earthy charm." The L.A. Stage says, "Kathy Halenda is a genuine powerhouse!" The Reno Gazette says she is "a knockout- a singer with a heart of gold." And the Atlantic City Whoot says it all with, "Kathy Halenda is a winner!"**