

SOMEWHERE OVER THE ROSE

PRESS QUOTES

“What are the connections between Bette Midler and Judy Garland? If you’ve ever asked yourself that question, Katy Halenda’s “Somewhere Over the Rose” will answer it. This woman was born for the stage. Oomph, pizzazz, stage presence, charisma. Whatever you want to call it, she’s got it. The music is pure fun, but she always returns to the lives behind it. “Somewhere Over the Rose” is as much biography as song revue. Like a good film editor, Halenda zips back and forth between the two life stories, and the weird reflections and resonances Garland and Midler’s stories create. Halenda makes you feel it. Thanks to her deep empathy, powerful stage presence and a rafter-shaking voice, you can’t help but feel it. She knows where both performers are coming from. After her performance, you will, too.”

The Observer Group, Sarasota, FL

“Our star shows us more parallels than we might suspect, especially the adoration of a gay male fan base. The stories work to give the afternoon or evening a cohesive arc. Ms. Halenda is a confident performer who is not afraid to deliver her own versions of the songs, not imitating the great ladies to whom she is paying homage. If she had tried she would have failed, since both of these performers are or were indelibly unique. What she does accomplish is a summoning up of memories for the audience. Kathy Halenda is a fine singer, completely true of pitch and able to project lyrics clearly.”

West Coast Florida Regional Reviews

“In her new cabaret show “Somewhere Over the Rose,” Kathy Halenda finds some intriguing parallels in the lives and careers of two personal favorites, Judy Garland and Bette Midler. Halenda, who has starred in many FST musicals and cabaret shows, has an easy way in front of the audience. You feel comfortable in her presence. She doesn’t try to sound like either of the other singers, though her big, warm voice naturally recalls Midler’s own style. Halenda likes to describe herself as brassy and sassy, but there’s a caring heart in her performance. By the end, you have learned a bit about each of the singers, particularly Halenda, who like her musical heroes, lives to entertain.”

Sarasota Herald Tribune