

PRESENTER PACK

# Unashamedly Christmas

A festive cabaret by Nicky Gayner



An advent calendar of festive cheer - with favourite songs, cheeky surprises, warm storytelling and plenty of Christmas spirit.

Created and performed by Nicky Gayner

Current Musical Director: James Doughty

Original Musical Director and Arranger: Tom Foscett-Barnes

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75 MINUTES WITHOUT AN INTERVAL / 90 MINUTES WITH AN INTERVAL  
OTHER RUNNING TIMES BY ARRANGEMENT / PIANO OR TRIO

Booking enquiries: [gayner@btinternet.com](mailto:gayner@btinternet.com)

# About the show

It is Christmas time, mistletoe and wine - and for anyone in the mood for a festive cabaret, Nicky Gayner's Unashamedly Christmas is here.

Nicky takes audiences on a musical journey through her advent calendar of Christmas. Packed to the brim with timeless favourites, cheeky pop hits, personal stories, singalong moments and a few unexpected treats from the bottom of her stocking, it is an evening designed to send audiences into the season smiling.

This is a warm, theatrical celebration rather than a conventional Christmas concert: intimate, funny, stylish and gloriously unashamed.

## Who will enjoy it?

The show welcomes friends, families, colleagues and Christmas lovers of every kind. Familiar music makes it immediately accessible, while the storytelling, humour and unexpected choices give it the character of a distinctive cabaret rather than a conventional seasonal concert.

## Where it works

Suitable for cabaret rooms, studio theatres, arts centres, festivals, private events, Christmas parties and seasonal fundraising evenings. Its running time, musical format and technical scale can be adapted to the occasion.

## Performance formats

75 minutes, no interval - a complete one-part performance.

90 minutes, with an interval - an extended version.

Tailored version - other running times can be agreed for festivals, special events and venue requirements.

## Musical options

The show can be presented in an intimate singer-and-pianist format, or with a trio of piano, double bass and drums for a fuller musical setting.

# The people and the production

## Nicky Gayner | Creator and performer

Nicky is a London-based cabaret singer and actor whose work combines distinctive musical interpretation with warm, personal storytelling. Her original shows have appeared at The Crazy Coqs, The Pheasantry and Wilton's Music Hall, at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and internationally.

[nickygayner.com](http://nickygayner.com) / Instagram @nickygayner



## James Doughty | Current Musical Director

James is a musical director, arranger and performer with extensive experience across theatre, cabaret and concert work. For ten years Music Supervisor for Sisco Entertainment, he is Musical Director and Arranger for The Barricade Boys, performing with them at the West End's Adelphi Theatre, New York's 54 Below and on tour in the UK and USA. His theatre credits include Saturday Night Fever, Seussical, if/Then, Made in Dagenham and Avenue Q, and he has worked with leading performers including Laura Michelle Kelly, Beth Leavel, Shoshana Bean, Kerry Ellis, Lucie Jones and Rachel Tucker.

[jamesdoughty.co.uk](http://jamesdoughty.co.uk)

## The music behind the show

Unashamedly Christmas was originally created by Nicky Gayner with musical director Tom Foscett-Barnes, who wrote most of the show's arrangements. The show is now performed with James Doughty, whose work with Nicky brings warmth, wit and musical sparkle to the production.

## Creative credits

Created and performed by Nicky Gayner

Current Musical Director: James Doughty

Original Musical Director and Arranger: Tom Foscett-Barnes

## Performance history and forthcoming dates

First performed in 2018, the show has appeared at The Pheasantry, The Crazy Coqs and Wilton's Music Hall. Next performances: 21 and 22 December 2026, The Crazy Coqs, London.

[Book tickets](#) / [Watch the trailer](#)

# The show in performance



“A classy, warmhearted Christmas cracker”

Cabaret Scenes, 2018

Live production photographs courtesy of audience members / Main publicity photograph: Steve Ullathorne

# Booking and technical information

## Running time

75 minutes without an interval, 90 minutes with an interval, or another length agreed to meet the requirements of the venue or event.

## Musical formats

Singer with piano, or singer with a trio of piano, double bass and drums. Touring personnel and local musician arrangements are confirmed for each engagement.

## Availability

All locations considered. Fees and availability on request.

## Stage and backstage

Minimum stage size: 3 x 4 metres for the piano version. Additional space may be required for the trio. A dressing room is required.

## Piano

A tuned grand piano is preferred. A digital piano can be used depending on the circumstances, and a keyboard can be supplied by prior arrangement.

## Sound

Two microphones, two boom stands, a PA system and one stage monitor. Detailed sound and backline requirements are agreed according to the piano or trio format. Equipment can be provided on request.

## Power

Minimum one 13-amp electrical socket. Local power arrangements are agreed in advance for international engagements.

## Lighting and operator

A specific lighting cue is preferred but not essential. The show adapts easily to festivals, tents and venues with simple facilities. Ideally the venue supplies a sound and lighting engineer.

## Get-in

Ideally allow at least 2.5 hours for get-in and preparation. An earlier technical rehearsal can be arranged, allowing a break and time to change before the performance.

## Contact Nicky Gayner / [gayner@btinternet.com](mailto:gayner@btinternet.com)

Please include the venue, location, proposed date, audience capacity, preferred running time and musical format, and available piano and technical facilities.

# Publicity copy for presenters

## Short listing | 40 words

An advent calendar of festive cheer from cabaret singer Nicky Gayner, packed with timeless favourites, cheeky pop hits, warm storytelling, singalong moments and unexpected treats. Unashamedly Christmas is intimate, funny, stylish and gloriously festive - the perfect seasonal night out.

## Long listing | 125 words

It is Christmas time, mistletoe and wine - and for anyone in the mood for a festive cabaret, Nicky Gayner's Unashamedly Christmas is here. Nicky takes audiences on a musical journey through her advent calendar of Christmas, packed to the brim with timeless favourites, cheeky pop hits, personal stories, singalong moments and a few unexpected treats from the bottom of her stocking.

This is a warm, theatrical celebration rather than a conventional Christmas concert: intimate, funny, stylish and gloriously unashamed. First performed in 2018, the show has appeared at The Pheasantry, The Crazy Coqs and Wilton's Music Hall. It can be presented with piano alone or with a trio of piano, double bass and drums, with running time tailored to suit the venue or occasion.

## Social post | Meet the show

Let your Christmas countdown begin with an advent calendar of festive cheer. Nicky Gayner's Unashamedly Christmas is packed with favourite songs, cheeky surprises, warm storytelling and plenty of Christmas spirit. Add your date, time, venue and booking link.

## Social post | A Christmas night out

Christmas classics, playful pop, stories, surprises and a few treats from the bottom of Nicky's stocking. Gather your friends for Unashamedly Christmas - a warm, witty and gloriously festive cabaret.

## Credits to retain

Created and performed by Nicky Gayner. Current Musical Director: James Doughty. Original Musical Director and Arranger: Tom Foscett-Barnes.

Presenter notes: add your venue, date, time, ticket price and booking link. Publicity photographs and tailored copy are available from [gayner@btinternet.com](mailto:gayner@btinternet.com).