

I Love a Cabaret

Gala fundraiser benefits education and outreach programming

For its major fundraising event this spring, the Arts Center offers its supporters an evening in Paris complete with French cuisine, fine wine and a cabaret show straight out of the Moulin Rouge.

Areas throughout the Arts Center will transform as only the Arts Center can do. Diners will be surrounded by beautiful works of art and twinkling Eiffel Towers in Le Galerie. Patrons in the Black Box Theatre will be transported to a dramatic black and red of "Moulin Rouge" cabaret.

"Creating fantasy is something we do very well," said Arts Center President and CEO Kathleen Bateson.

"We want our guests to experience the romance and excitement of the City of Lights right here in our own island setting."

For one special night in March, the Black Box Theater and Greer Gallery will be transformed into cozy bistros featuring French fare prepared by Chef Ryan of the Westin Hilton Head Island Resort & Spa. The evening menu includes complimentary French wine and decadent "Let Them Eat Cake" desserts.

Dinner will be followed by a lively auction in the Elizabeth Wallace Theatre where guests will have the opportunity to bid on a number of fabulous week long vacation packages with luxury accommodations ranging from a French Riviera getaway to The Manhattan Club in midtown New York to a

magnificent villa on Mexico's Riviera coast featuring a full-time staff of five.

The evening will end on a high note with a petit cabaret headlined and directed by Casey Colgan. The accomplished performer will open the show with "Be Our Guest," one of the songs he sang as the amorous Lumiere in the Arts Center's *Beauty and the Beast*.

Sharing the stage with Colgan are Jody Layman and four actors from the cast of *Les Misérables*: Meegan Midkiff, who played Betty Haynes in *White Christmas*, and performing the title song from *Sunset Boulevard* will be

Christopher Vettel, who starred in the national tour of the Tony Award-winning show.

Doug Jabara will reprise his solo as Emile from the national tour of *South Pacific* with "This Nearly Was Mine." Shannon Kaunfung's sultry "Le Jazz Hot" from *Victor, Victoria* will also take center stage.

There is also a catchy melody of French songs, all of which are performed on stage with audience members seated at the cabaret tables.

Proceeds from the March 27 *Gala Cabaret* support the Arts Center's many education and outreach activities, including free community festivals and arts enrichment programs offered at no cost to area schools.



GALA
CABARET