



Richmond/Ermet
Aid Foundation

For Immediate Release

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www.press-push.com/SONGS4

The Richmond/Ermet Aid Foundation (REAF) presents...

Donna Sachet's Songs For No Reason

The Big Gay Comedy Extravaganza

A benefit for:

Positive Resource Center (PRC) –*new home of AIDS Emergency Fund*
and REAF (Richmond/Ermet Aid Foundation)

Friday, April 20, 2018 - 8:00 pm

The Russian Center of San Francisco

2450 Sutter St. (between Divisadero and Broderick Sts.) SF 94115

Featuring DONNA SACHET - San Francisco Drag Personality

With special guests...

- **BRUCE VILANCH** - Broadway star/comedian
- **SHANN CARR, KITTY TIPATA & RONN VIGH** - Comedians
- **JESSICA COKER, BRIAN KENT, KIM NALLEY,**
& SHAWN RYAN - singers

WEB SITE: <https://www.reaf-sf.org>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1976206312642747/>

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Fund. Donna, who is known for producing and starring in the weekly “Sunday’s a Drag” drag show brunch at the Starlight Room is a San Francisco icon who has produced countless benefit shows and been a tireless advocate for gay rights and AIDS fundraiser for over 25 years

Tickets are \$45 - general admission; VIP Sponsor tickets range from \$125 up with various perks based on category. VIP sponsor tickets include the after party with the cast in the cocktail lounge opposite the theater. **Tickets available by calling 415-273-1620 or online <http://www.songsfornoreason.eventbrite.com>**

Performer Bios

SHANN CARR

With 31 years of exclusively gay standup experience at her hip, comedian Shann Carr weaves a storytelling style that makes you feel like you’re with an eccentric friend who has your whole dinner party in stitches. Her most prolific gig began in 1999 with Atlantis Events and 76 trips later she continues to ride those waves, most recently in March 2018 from Puerto Rico.

Shann is the Executive Producer of The Moxie Studios, a visionary company building a home for the burgeoning industry of gay media production in Palm Springs, CA. The Moxie Studios produced the first-ever Gay TV Week, and a series of Gay Commercial-Making Contests as well as creating the New Media Spotlight a successful new offering from Cinema Diverse, Palm Springs' LGBTQ Filmfestival. Moxie endeavors to create media-making momentum that builds Palm Springs' reputation as the perfect work-play destination for professionals producing the next generation of gay entertainment. She has produced a film, published a book and is up to try anything else that turn into an adventure. She lives in Palm Springs

JESSICA COKER

Jessica is a Bay Area actress and cabaret performer who also performs as one third of the trio known as B.O.O.B.S! (Busty, over the top, outrageous Broads Singing) who has performed several times for REAF audiences in the past. As a musical theater actress, she has performed in many Bay Area productions including *One a Clear Day* for New Conservatory Theater Center, *Urintown*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Ragtime*, and *Philia* for Berkeley Playhouse, *Tales of the City* for A.C.T., *Smokey Joe’s Café*, *Broadway By The Bay in Concert*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *In the Heights* for Broadway by the Bay, *Mr. Irresistible* at Alcazar Theater, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Lizzie*, *Carrie*, *Jerry Springer the Opera*, *Songs for a New World*, *Bat Boy the Musical* for Ray of Light Theater Company and was named Best New Cabaret Artist of San Francisco in 2015.

BRIAN KENT

Brian Kent is a Billboard Recording Artist who’s scored several national and Int’l. hits on Global Dance Club Play charts, including his recent hits, *“On Every Page”*, *“With Or Without You”* and *“Su-Su-Su-Superstar”*. All co-written and composed by him and all charting across the globe from the UK Music Week Club Chart , DMC World Charts, World UK Club Charts, Billboard Club Play Charts to a #1 spot on the Sirius Satellite Radio’s Hot 20 Chart. His evolution across multiple genres has earned him multiple nominations and an OutMusic Award for Best Dance Song as well as being a finalist in The USA Songwriting Competition for his hit *“I’ll Find A Way”*. A former background vocalist for Dance Diva, Kristine W. and toured with many greats like Martha Wash, Crystal Waters, Taylor Dayne and more, Brian has made his way from Broadway to Billboard.



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KIM NALLEY

Awarded "Most Influential African American in the Bay Area" in 2005 and "Best Jazz Group" in 2013, vocalist Kim Nalley is already being called "legendary" and "San Francisco institution." She has graced concert halls from Moscow to Lincoln Center. A true Renaissance woman, Kim Nalley has also been a writer for JazzWest and SF Chronicle's City Brights, a produced playwright, a former jazz club owner, an accomplished stage actress, a Ph.D. candidate in history at UC Berkeley, and an avid lindy hop & blues dancer. Her many philanthropic endeavors include founding the Kim Nalley Black Youth Jazz Scholarship.

Nalley lived in Europe for several years before returning to SF to re-open the jazz club Jazz at Pearl's (2003-08). She has collaborated with artists such as Rhoda Scott, David "Fathead" Newman, Houston Person, James Williams, Michael Tilson Thomas and the SF Symphony. She has recorded several on both major and indie labels, including *She Put A Spell On Me*, which was short-listed for a 2006 Grammy Award, and *Million Dollar Secret*, which charted in the Jazz Top 40. Nalley often combines music and history to create historiographical concerts, including her award-winning *Ladies Sing the Blues*, *She Put a Spell on Me: Tribute to Nina Simone*, *Freedom's Song: Music of the Civil Rights Movement*, musical director and curator for the Martin Luther King Institute's Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and *The Heart of Lady Day*, a Billie Holiday biopic. As a playwright she has written *Ella: the American Dream* a bio-musical about Ella Fitzgerald. As an actress she portrayed Billie Holiday in the dramatic play *Lady Day in Love*, and has starred in *Teatro Zinzanni* as Madame Zinzanni. Kim Nalley is on faculty at the CA Jazz Conservatory. She is a Ph.D candidate in UC Berkeley's history

SHAWN RYAN

MAC Award Winner Shawn Ryan's star continues to ascend in the worlds of TV, film, and cabaret. Having played the Cannes Film Festival May 2015 with his Directorial Debut *Charlie*, Shawn's latest film can be seen at festivals all over the world. Along with his award-winning performance as the title character in *Charlie*, Shawn has been seen on NBC's *America's Got Talent* and made numerous TV appearances on such shows as *Bones*, *The Mentalist*, *Life*, *One Night Stand Up*, and *Women's Murder Club* where he landed the role of Karen Adams, a transgendered Drag King with narcolepsy, all thanks to Jane Lynch turning down the role. Shawn also has two CDs available through his website. www.shawn-ryan.com

DONNA SACHET

Twenty-six years ago, **Donna Sachet** started her adventure in SF and the City has applauded her fun-loving spirit, quick wit, and musical talent ever since. She reigned as Miss Gay SF in 1993 and as the 13th elected Empress of SF in 1995-96. Donna can be seen throughout the Community, performing, judging contests, emceeding fund-raisers, producing events, cutting ribbons, and hosting parties, and is often referred to as *The First Lady of San Francisco*.

Donna has entertained at venues as varied as The Plush Room, The Rrazz Room, the Castro Theatre, Feinstein's at the Nikko, Great American Music Hall, Masonic Auditorium, SF City Hall, and Masonic Auditorium in SF and in Washington, D.C. at the foot of the Washington Monument, in Sydney, Australia for Gay Mardi Gras, in NYC at the Marriott Marquis on Broadway, in LA at the MCC with the cast of *Mama Mia*, and in Chicago for the SF Party at the Int'l. Mr. Leather Competition. She currently stars weekly in *Sunday's a Drag*, now in its 13th year, at The Starlight Room at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel and is a sought-after emcees, singers, fundraisers, and hostesses in SF and beyond.



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KITTY TIPATA

Kitty Tapata is a mess - a hilarious one. One of San Francisco's only independent trivia hosts, Kitty wittily wields the mic Wednesdays at the Wild Side West, one of SF's oldest LGBTQ bars. With a bar trivia contest that's equal parts comedy, improv, knowledge, & contact sport. Tapata's trivia "ain't your momma's pub quiz", and she's proud of it. Kitty, and her conjoined twin brother Kit Tapata, are known for helping with fundraisers throughout SF. Kitty also writes the minimalist Queer Pop Quiz for The SF Bay Times.

RONN VIGH

Ronn Vigh possesses a brash attitude and acerbic wit that made him a natural as a writer for Joan Rivers on her hit show *Fashion Police* on E! Television. He regularly performs at comedy clubs, colleges and festivals across the nation as well as co-hosting the popular sports-comedy podcast, *Switching Teams: A Gay Dude & A Straight Dude Talk About Sports*.

BRUCE VILANCH

One of the most sought-after jokesmiths in the entertainment industry, Bruce Vilanch has become a recognizable face in his own right, thanks to the feature-length documentary *Get Bruce!* (1999) and his stint as a regular on *Hollywood Squares* (1998-2004), for which he also serves as head writer. Known for his eclectic eyewear and collection of unique T-shirts, he began as a child model for Lane Bryant, but when his initial efforts as an actor came to naught, he became an entertainment writer for the Chicago Tribune instead. Impressed by his review of her cabaret performance in 1970, Bette Midler hired him to punch up her act, and he later moved to LA where he wrote for variety shows: the original *Donny and Marie* and *The Brady Bunch Hour* (ABC) and provided material for Richard Pryor, Lily Tomlin and Joan Rivers. He has maintained his connection with Midler through the years, working on such projects as the feature *Divine Madness* (1980) and the TV special *Bette Midler- Diva Las Vegas* (HBO, 1997), as well as writing for her sitcom *Bette!* (CBS, 2000-01).

Vilanch began contributing to Academy Awards telecasts in 1989, collaborating with the likes of Billy Crystal, Whoopi Goldberg and David Letterman, and graduated to head writer in 2000. The Whoopi connection led to his providing the notorious material Ted Danson performed in blackface at a certain 1993 Friars Club roast of his then-girlfriend Goldberg, but his resume also includes "You Made Me Watch You," the touching Emmy-winning valedictory Midler crooned as a send-off to Johnny Carson. He made his feature debut as a dress manufacturer in *Mahogany* (1975), starring Diana Ross (to whose act he also contributed), and put his Muppet-like persona to excellent use as Santa's number one helper in the syndicated TV-movie *It Nearly Wasn't Christmas* (1989). On the heels of *Get Bruce!*, Vilanch performed Off-Broadway in *Bruce Vilanch: Almost Famous* (2000). After a first act reminiscing on his odd path to almost famousness, he opened up the floor to questions in Act II, displaying his amazing ability for off-the-cuff one-liners. As he told US WEEKLY (June 12, 2000), there is a downside to celebrity: "Now, I get knocked if someone tries something that doesn't work. Before it was the fault of these anonymous people, 'the writers.'"

Calendar Editors:

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SYNOPSIS:

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**WHERE: The Russian Center of San Francisco
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Donna Sachet's

Songs for no Reason

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Comedy Extravaganza



Photo: Georg Lester

With Special Guests



BRUCE VILANCH



SHAWN RYAN



RONN VIGH



BRIAN KENT



SHANN CARR



JESSICA COKER



KITTY TIPATA

And others
to be
announced!

*An evening of stand-up
and musical comedy*

Friday, April 20, 2018 • 8:00 PM

THE RUSSIAN CENTER

2450 Sutter Street, San Francisco

TICKETS & INFO: www.reaf.org

**Benefiting Positive Resource Center
& REAF**