

PRESS

RELEASES, REVIEWS AND ARTICLES

Sun Lakes
Life
Friday, June 17, 2016



DAILY BULLETIN

WEEKEND

ONLINE FIND SOMETHING TO DO; GET THE LATEST ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS & CULTURE NEWS

A night with the 'Ladies'

"This show is basically a piece of my heart. When I was a little girl, about 9 years old, I watched all the Hollywood movies. They played them on the BBC. I was in awe of so many of the great ladies. Judy Garland grabbed my heart." Those old movies had such an influence on Morrell that her dream became to follow in their footsteps and she grew up to be an entertainer. Morrell has performed throughout the United States, Great Britain and Europe, starting on prime-time television in Italy and co-starring twice with Broadway legend Carol Channing. She can be heard worldwide as the spokesperson for the Pixar/Walt Disney Co.'s "Dinker

Multi-media show is a smash hit

BY LINDA VIEIRA
Sun Lakes Life

Sultry-voiced Toni Morrell put on quite a show last week for the Friendship Club.

Accompanied by her musical director husband, David Dial, Toni exploded onto the stage wearing a purple sequined jacket over a black velvet body suit. She delighted the crowd right away with a tribute to Debbie Reynolds, as a scene from "Tammy and the Bachelor" played on the screen behind her.

That set the stage for Morrell's show, "Remembering the Ladies", in which she sang the songs of famous actresses and singers of the past. Morrell sprinkled in stories about them and showed videos and photos that drew sighs and applause from the audience.

Her rich, husky voice was joined in harmony by Dial, who controlled the entire video selections while producing orchestral accompaniment for each selection. The audience loved Morrell's renditions of the songs of Shirley Bassey, Peggy Lee, Lena Horne, Lisa Minnelli, Cher, Barbara Streisand, Edith Piaf, Ann-Margret,



Remembering the Ladies' was very aptly named.



British songstress, Toni Morrell, put on a highly entertaining show for the ladies.

and Judy Garland, with photos of those divas on the screen. Her tribute to "Gypsy" stars Rosalind Russell, Bette Midler, and Ethel Merman was stirring. She even sang a love



ENTERTAINER SPOTLIGHT

Toni Morrell 'Remembers' the 'Ladies'

Toni Morrell, an impressionist and a talented dynamic vocalist. What she does in her one-woman show, "Remembering the Ladies," is to capture the essence of what made these legendary females of the stage, screen and television so captivating.

Recasting classic performance of Judy Garland, Edith Piaf, Marilyn Monroe, Shirley Bassey, Carol Channing, Madeline Dietrich and Lucille Ball, she has performed throughout the United States, Great Britain and Europe, starting on Italy's #1 primetime entertainment show and co-starring twice with Broadway legend Carol Channing. She recently became the worldwide voice-over spokesperson for the Pixar/Disney motion picture, "Tinker Bell."

Currently based in L.A., Morrell has journeyed far and wide from her hometown of Scranton, located in the North of England. She came from a family that liked to go to the Saturday afternoon theater, showing Hollywood movies. The showbiz bug bit the young impressionist lady at the age of nine when she watched onstage at a local talent show, much to the chagrin of her parents, and sang the Debbie Reynolds song "Tammy."

"By the age of 11, I was producing shows," she said in her still very evident and proper British accent, "I rounded up

19 young girls and my long-suffering brother, Stuart, and voice and produced shows that we would perform at all of the women's club and church halls in the vicinity. I was taking piano lessons so was writing the arrangements and I like to do my own take on songs, pretty much. "Give My Regards to Broadway" never. So I was a pretty hokey little girl and a bloody entrepreneur, or so I thought!" She laughed. "I was also very inspired by the shows I'd watch on the BBC."

What followed was a stream of national talent shows that she would always win due to her dramatic voice and captivating energy on stage. By the age of 14, she began auditioning for television, securing various roles and parts. "I sang in concert with the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra."

By the time she was 17, Morrell was a seasoned entertainer and would perform in cabarets, hotels and evening stage shows. "I would work in these huge venues or in small smoky clubs. I worked for the various mixer's clubs and soon and restaurant's clubs and they couldn't do a tough audience, let me tell you. You had to really entertain them, if they liked you they'd let you live!"

The next ten years was a series of cabarets and hotel showrooms in Europe, throughout Great Britain, on the Canary Islands and the Jersey Channel Islands. "I worked with a Spanish speaking band, but we got along wonderfully. Music is the universal language, you know."

But even with increasing success in her homeland and Europe, her dream of coming to America finally became a reality when she decided to make a move in 1966, and landed in Miami with no real contacts, just her usual unbridled enthusiasm. "American people are so hospitable and friendly."

Soon she was performing on cruise ships and made a contact that brought her to the cabaret of New York City. "I wanted to see the U.S. so in 1966, I took a Greyhound bus to Las Vegas." Starting out as a cigarette girl at the Dunes she soon rose to be the star attraction of the Union Plaza's production of "High Pressure."

Eventually ending up in L.A., she met Dial and her producer-director Karen G. Cable which became an integral part of her show. Cable has produced and directed one-hour specials with Audrey Hepburn, Sophia Loren, Doris Day, Bette



Toni Morrell

Davis, Lana Turner and Elizabeth Taylor. Dial is an award-winning keyboard "ace" and has served as musical/technical director for several Broadway musicals and with entertainers Peter Allen, Bar Bacharach and Carol Channing.

She will be making a one-time rare debut appearance so if you haven't experienced the rich quality of her voice and her well staged multi-media presentation then you're in for a special treat.

Instrument: Voice, keyboard, programmed background

Genre: Standards, Broadway show tunes, American pop and jazz

THE NEW!
STARSTRUCK!

FORMERLY
"REMEMBERING THE LADIES"

Sun Lakes

Life

Friday, June 17, 2016



Toni Morrell to appear at Sun Lakes Friendship Club Concert in June

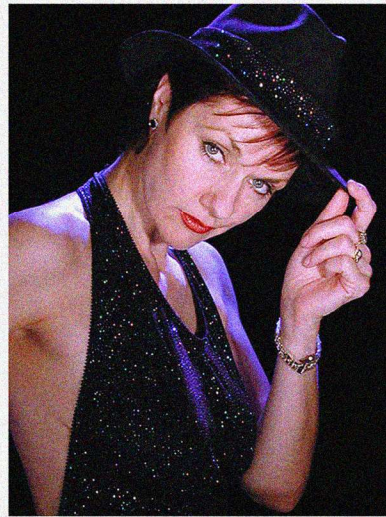
BY LINDA VIEIRA
Sun Lakes Life

Get ready for an exciting multi-media concert coming in June! Mark your calendars now!

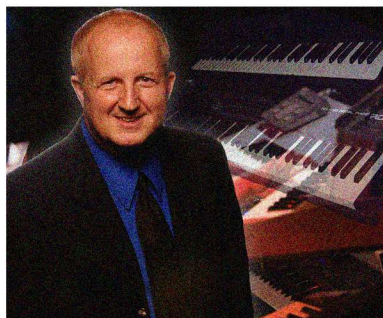
“Remembering the Ladies” starring British singer/entertainer/comedienne Toni Morrell, will be presented by the Friendship Club on Sunday, June 12 in the main clubhouse ballroom.

Morrell performs an awesome salute to some of the most unforgettable women of the golden age of entertainment, including Judy Garland, Marilyn Monroe, Marlene Dietrich, Carol Channing, Barbara Streisand, Lucille Ball, Cher, Debbie Reynolds, Liza Minnelli, Edith Piaf, and more.

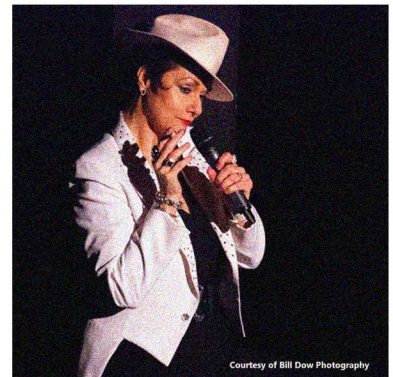
Between singing their iconic songs in her own style, Morrell tells behind-the-scenes stories about each of the stars, and shows candid as well as classic photos of them. The show also features a special segment comparing the lives of Marilyn Monroe and Princess Diana, as well as the true story behind the “Hitchcock Blondes.” A sexy “Baby Boomer Dream Girls” segment, and one of the most powerful and electrifying salutes to Judy Garland ever seen, are also included.



“Remembering the Ladies” offers a warm and loving glimpse into the lives of legendary ladies of film, stage, music, and television. With her beautiful voice and unforgettable style, Morrell sings some of the best loved songs from the American and Broadway songbooks. She shows captivating videos and is superbly accompanied by performer, arranger, musical director, and multi-keyboard wizard, David Dial.



British-born entertainer Morrell has been a professional entertainer since the age of 17. She has achieved international recognition in both the United States and in Europe, performing for millions of people. She is also a voice-over artist, performing in numerous commercials and trailers for Disney, Jaguar, and Cleopatra-The Exhibition at the California Science Center.



Courtesy of Bill Dow Photography

Multi-media show is a smash hit

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Accompanied by her musical director husband, David Dial, Toni exploded onto the stage wearing a purple sequined jacket over a black velvet body suit. She delighted the crowd right away with a tribute to Debbie Reynolds, as a scene from "Tammy and the Bachelor" played on the screen behind her.

That set the stage for Morrell's show, "Remembering the Ladies", in which she sang the songs of famous actresses and singers of the past. Morrell sprinkled in stories about them and showed videos and photos that drew sighs and applause from the audience.

Her rich, husky voice was joined in harmony by Dial, who controlled the entire video selections while producing orchestral accompaniment for each selection. The audience loved Morrell's renditions of the songs of Shirley Bassey, Peggy Lee, Lena Horne, Liza Minnelli, Cher, Barbra Streisand, Edith Piaf, Ann-Margret,



Photographs for Sun Lakes Life by Steve Felber
'Remembering The Ladies' was very aptly named, as Toni sang many of the famous singers hits.



Photographs for Sun Lakes Life by Steve Felber
British songstress, Toni Morrell, put on a high-energy show honoring all the legendary lady singers of our time.

and Judy Garland, with photos of those divas on the screen.

Her tribute to "Gypsy" stars Rosalind Russell, Bette Midler, and Ethel Merman was stirring. She even sang a lovely tribute to classic actresses who displayed their full emotions on the silver screen, including Sophia Loren, Grace Kelly, Angela Lansbury, Greta Garbo, and Patricia Neal. Morrell presented short vignettes honoring Lucille Ball and Marlene Dietrich, coming down into the audience to the crowd's delight. She showcased Princess Diana and Marilyn Monroe, and ended the show with a tribute to Judy Garland. Her final song honored her own mother, whom she adored.

ENTERTAINER SPOTLIGHT

By Johnny Meza - For Desert Entertainer

26

Toni Morrell 'Remembers' the 'Ladies'

To call singer, actress and entertainer Toni Morrell an impressionist would be a misnomer for this very talented dynamic vocalist. What she does in her one-woman show, "Remembering the Ladies," is to capture the essence of what made these legendary femmes of the stage, screen and television so captivating.

Recreating classic performance of Judy Garland, Edith Piaf, Marilyn Monroe, Shirley Bassey, Carol Channing, Marlene Dietrich and Lucille Ball, she has performed throughout the United States, Great Britain and Europe, starring on Italy's #1 primetime entertainment show and co-starring twice with Broadway Legend Carol Channing. She recently became the worldwide voice-over spokesperson for the Pixar/Disney motion picture, "Tinker Bell."

Currently based in L.A., Morrell has journeyed far and wide from her birthplace of Scunthorpe, located in the North of England. She came from a family that liked to go to the Saturday afternoon theater showing Hollywood movies.

The showbiz bug hit the young impressionable lady at the age of nine when she marched onstage at a local talent show, much to the chagrin of her parents, and sang the Debbie Reynolds song "Tammy."

"By the age of 11, I was producing shows," she said in her still very evident and proper British accent, "I rounded up



Johnny Meza

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"I was taking piano lessons so I was writing the arrangements and I like to do my own take on songs, pretty much a "Give My Regards to Broadway" revue. So I was a pretty bossy little girl and a bloody entrepreneur, or so I thought!" She laughed. "I was also very inspired by the shows I'd watch on the BBC."

What followed was a stream of national talent shows that she would always win due to her dynamic voice and captivating energy on stage. By the age of 14, she began auditioning for television, securing various roles and parts. "I sang in concert with the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra."

By the time she was 17, Morrell was a seasoned entertainer and would perform in cabarets, lounges and venues large and small. "I would work in these huge venues or in small smoky clubs. I worked for the various miner's clubs and iron and steel-worker's clubs and they could be a tough audience, let me tell you. You had to really entertain them, if they liked you they'd let you live!"

The next ten years was a series of cabarets and resort showrooms in Europe, throughout Great Britain, on the Canary Islands and the Jersey Channel Islands. "I worked with a Spanish speaking band, but we got along wonderfully. Music is the universal language, you know."

But even with increasing success in her homeland and Europe, her dream of coming to America finally became a reality when she decided to make a move in 1989, and landed in Miami with no real contacts, just her usual unbounded enthusiasm. "American people are so hospitable and friendly."

Soon she was performing on cruise ships and made a contact that brought her to the cabarets of New York City. "I wanted to see the U.S. so in 1994, I took a Greyhound bus to Las Vegas!" Starting out as a cigarette girl at the Dunes she soon rose to be the star attraction of the Union Plaza's production of "High Pressure."

Eventually ending up in L.A., she met her husband and musical director David Dial and her producer-director Karen G. Cadle which became an integral part of her show. Cadle has produced and directed one-hour specials with Audrey Hepburn, Sophia Loren, Doris Day, Bette



Toni Morrell

Davis, Lana Turner and Elizabeth Taylor. Dial is an award-winning keyboard "wiz" and has served as musical/technical director for several Broadway musicals and with entertainers Peter Allen, Burt Bacharach and Carol Channing.

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Instruments: Voice, keyboards, programmed background

Genre: Standards, Broadway show tunes, American pop and jazz

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

TONI MORRELL Stars in “Remembering The Ladies”



A nostalgic, heartwarming, “feel good” powerhouse musical treat, starring British dynamo, Toni Morrell... this is a wonderful show! It’s a loving tribute to legendary ladies of music, stage and screen who have touched our hearts for decades! You’ll laugh, you’ll cry, and you will love every magical moment . . . as we did! The show is dynamically directed by noted celebrity authority, interviewer and T.V. director, Karen G. Cadle.

Under the brilliant onstage technical and musical direction of Toni’s husband David Dial...this multi-talented, charismatic, singer/storyteller knocks ‘em dead! In her own gut-wrenching style, she sings the signature songs of some of history’s most revered female singers.

She shares personal stories and shows onscreen segments of their lives, as well as those of countless, unforgettable actresses. On a simple, black box set, this funny, “down to earth” diva captivated us from start to finish!

Saluting such legends as Marlene Dietrich, Barbra Streisand, Debbie Reynolds, Liza Minnelli, Cher, Bette Midler, Dame Shirley Bassey, Marilyn Monroe, Lucille Ball, Elizabeth Taylor, Edith Piaf, Carol Channing, Bette Davis, Lena Horne, Tippi Hedren, and many more....in songs and a stunning montage of images....the emotional joy is endless!

A stunning Tippi Hedren (in her 80s) was there and honored the night we went, and other surprise guest “stars” are expected to show up during Toni’s run. You just never know who you might see! Why not gather up a group of friends to share in this highly entertaining, nostalgic experience? They’ll love you for it! Running through December 31st at the El Portal Forum Theatre - 5269 Lankershim Blvd. in N. Hollywood.



Backstage congratulations for Toni Morrell from Judy Garland’s daughter, Lorna Luft

WEEKEND

ONLINE FIND SOMETHING TO DO; GET THE LATEST ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS & CULTURE NEWS

A night with the 'Ladies'

By **Diana Sholley**
Staff Writer

Those not in the celebrity inner circle could never hope for even a glimpse inside the glamorous world of such superstar ladies as Liza Minnelli, Lena Horne, Cher or Bette Midler, not to mention such legends of the past as Judy Garland, Marlene Dietrich, Lucille Ball or Marilyn Monroe.

Saturday night the only inside connection needed is a theater ticket, because Toni Morrell will be staging her globe-trotting one-woman show "Remembering the Ladies" at Upland's Grove Theatre.

Morrell is not an impressionist. She doesn't do voices. But the talented lady is a master storyteller and through song, anecdotes and film clips she salutes the great entertainers in a program voted Best Solo Show in California Theatre, and nominated for Best Special Theatre Event in L.A., by Broadway World.

"I do not impersonate them," said Morrell, in her smooth English accent. "What we're doing are high-powered, unique arrangements that reflect the feeling about the ladies; haunting images, many of which have never been seen before."

The ladies are those whose larger-than-life stage presence has touched Morrell, she says.

"This show is basically a piece of my heart. When I was a little girl, about 9 years old, I watched all the Hollywood movies. They played them on the BBC. I was in awe of so many of the great ladies. Judy Garland grabbed my heart."

Those old movies had such an influence on Morrell that her dream became to follow in their footsteps and she grew up to be an entertainer. Morrell has performed throughout the United States, Great Britain and Europe, starring on prime-time television in Italy and co-starring twice with Broadway legend Carol Channing.

She can be heard worldwide as the spokesperson for the Pixar/Walt Disney Co.'s "Tinker Bell" and "Disney Fairies" motion pictures. She is also the voice on radio commercials for the Jaguar automobile.

Morrell found the love-of-her-life in musician David Dial, whom she refers to as a multi-keyboard wizard. "He sounds like a one-man orchestra," Morrell said of her husband. "Everything you hear will be David."

Dial also provides the onstage technical and musical direction for "Remembering the Ladies," a show co-written and directed by celebrity television producer Karen G. Cadle, whose works include "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" and "The Whoopi Goldberg Show."

Cadle worked with many Hollywood legends including Audrey Hepburn, Lana Turner, Doris Day, Bette Davis, Elizabeth Taylor, June Allyson and Esther Williams.

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Stars, Stars and Even More Entrancing Stars via the Supreme Talent of Toni Morrell

by Don Grigware/BroadwayWorld.com



More vibrantly alive and dazzling than a Christmas Cracker! Straight from the UK is singer/actress **Toni Morrell** who will be appearing @ the El Portal in the Second Stage **Forum Theatre** from December 2 through the 31st. Her show called **REMEMBERING THE LADIES** lovingly pays tribute to **Marilyn Monroe, Edith Piaf, Judy Garland, Shirley Bassey**, along with **Debbie Reynolds, Carol Channing, Liza Minnelli, The Hitchcock Blondes** and **Lucille Ball**. Woa!!! Those are the best of the greats, and Morrell gives her audience an *inside* look at who these remarkable women really were (are) and why it is so important that they be remembered.

When asked about her background, Morrell displays a piquant and genuine British humor. "I began my career at the age of 17 in the working men's clubs of England. They were some pretty hard audiences...if they liked you, they let you LIVE! However, that is where I learnt the true art of being an Entertainer....in order to be heard above the cacophony!" She went on to perform in some of the biggest and best venues in the UK, winning three major nationwide talent contests by the age of 19. She performed in Jersey (off the coast of France), Southern Spain and topped the bill at the Tenerife Country Club in the Canary Islands for a year. Morrell was also booked on prime-time television in Italy on the Rai Uno network paying tribute to **Shirley Bassey, Judy Garland and Edith Piaf**....for the latter she sang "La Vie En Rose" in French....and they used subtitles in Italian on the screen. She laughs, "Would have loved to have known how those lyrics translated!"

Along with the aforementioned legends, Toni also salutes **Cher, Bette Midler** and **Barbra Streisand**, but in terms of newer actresses who impress her with that special mystique, fewer come to mind, with the enthusiastic exception of "**Marion Cotillard**! She was not only superb, heartbreaking and powerful in *La Vie En Rose*, but also delivered a wonderful performance in *Nine*. She has a 'Legendary Lady of the Old School' quality, which is quite entrancing."

What does she want audiences to take home with them from **REMEMBERING THE LADIES**? "It is difficult in today's world, to hold on to the glamor and the sentimentality of yesterday, but we try, with the words and the music, and the moments onscreen that our legendary ladies have left us. We want to honor the memories that these ladies have given us, and never let them be forgotten, and from the audiences' reaction thus far, we have done just that." Be a part of the throngs of people who are mesmerized by **The Legendary Ladies ...and Miss TONI MORRELL**.



BWW Reviews: Toni Morrell Sensational in REMEMBERING THE LADIES

By Don Grigware



REMEMBERING THE LADIES

Starring **Toni Morrell** / Directed by Karen G. Cadle / El Portal Forum Theatre / Musical & Technical Director David Dial

Spending an evening with **Toni Morrell and her Legendary Ladies** is one to treasure. **This lady, as I've reviewed her in *My American Dream*, is one hell of a singer and actress who embodies a star, and underneath possesses the warmth and radiance of a genuine human being.**

With the expertise of producer and director Karen Cadle and superb musician/husband David Dial, Morrell never does an impersonation, but lovingly brings the ladies to life - both living and deceased - primarily through song and anecdotes and also via onscreen images and video.

Highlights of the evening include: Dame Shirley Bassey "My Life", an Edith Piaf medley with her signature "Non, Je Ne Regrette Rien", a lovely "Smile" for blonde Goddesses, Marilyn Monroe and Princess Diana; shy and misunderstood, true divas Barbra, Bette and Cher with "The Way We Were", "I Remember You" and "If I Could Turn Back time" respectively, "Unforgettable" for Shirley MacLaine, an audience participation with "Falling in Love" and Marlene, "Before the Parade Passes by" for Carol Channing, "Is That All There Is?" for Miss Peggy Lee, "From This Moment On" for Lena Horne, "Some People" to the Broadway ladies of Gypsy and a glorious medley to the greatest legend of all time, Judy Garland, including "Quiet Please, There's a Lady Onstage" - a heartfelt and fitting salute.

An extra special treat on opening night was an onstage tribute to the Hitchcock Blondes and Miss Tippi Hedren, still stunningly beautiful at 80-years-old. Morrell and Dial closed Act I with their video salute to "Shambala" (song composed by Dial), Hedren's very special place for all those glorious wild animals who need our help for preservation.

This is a wonderful evening in the theatre not to be missed. Sensational Toni Morrell will be entertaining, as only she can do, through December 31 in the Forum Theatre of the El Portal, so don't miss out!



Valley Variety

By Margie Barron



Photo by Margie Barron

Toni Morrell, Linda Gray and Richard Chamberlain.

More folks enjoying a great evening of music, Richard Chamberlain (looking just as handsome as his Dr. Kildare days) and Linda Gray (still a stunning Dallas doll) were seen catching Toni Morrell's *Remembering the Ladies* show at the El Portal. Both went wild over the beautiful "Shambala" song composed by Toni's husband and musical director David Dial. It was created in tribute to Tippi Hedren, one of the many legendary ladies Toni salutes in her show.