

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL STAR TO SERENADE BRISBANE FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY

Judith Wright Centre and Brisbane Cabaret Festival presents

MICHELINE VAN HAUTEM: BREL WITH CHOCOLAT

"....She is, simply, fabulous"
The London Times (5 stars)

"Short of major surgery, cancel whatever you have on tonight and hear Micheline Van Hautem"
Sydney Morning Herald

Edinburgh Festival award-winner and internationally acclaimed Belgian chanteuse **Micheline Van Hautem** will serenade Brisbane for one night only with her new show **Brel with Chocolat** at Judith Wright Centre on Saturday 17 October 2009.

Direct from a 60-date European tour with Jacques Brel's nephew Bruno Brel, **Micheline Van Hautem** is embarking on an Australian tour that includes a one-off performance in the intimate 300-seat theatre at Judith Wright Centre.

Micheline has played to packed houses and critical acclaim at festivals and venues across the globe including *Edinburgh Festival* (where she won a prestigious Herald Angel Award), Sydney Opera House and the *Adelaide Cabaret Festival*.

Accompanied by virtuoso guitarist Erwin van Ligten, **Micheline** says she will pay homage to her fellow countryman Jaques Brel as she performs her Brel favourites and originals from her first solo album, *Chocolat* – inspired by her travels around the world singing Brel.

"Even though Jacques Brel lived quite a few years ago, and he's a man, and he sings in French, I have always found a very strong connection with his music," Micheline said.

"**Brel with Chocolat** celebrates the work of Brel and the way in which he has inspired my own work; I play my own Brel favourites and my own originals that have been inspired by singing Brel all over the world," she said.

Renowned for her spell-binding stage presence and emotional expression, **Micheline** inhabits the poetry and passion of Brel's music, singing in French, Flemish and English.

In **Brel with Chocolat**, **Micheline** will interweave her Brel favourites, including *Ne Me Quitte Pas*, *The Port of Amsterdam* and *Seasons in the Sun* among others, with originals from her first solo album *Chocolat* including collaborations with The Alessi Brothers and Tim Finn.

Venturing to New York with only her voice and her guitar to start her career ten years ago, it wasn't long before Micheline Van Hautem was selling out concerts with her band Mich en Scene at The Florence Gould Hall in Manhattan.

In 2001 Micheline recorded the album, *The Songs of Jacques Brel* with her band, Mich en Scene, and toured from New York to Amsterdam, Edinburgh and Australia.

Micheline joined accordionist Frederik Caelen to tour music from their 2005 album, *Madame*, which demanded two international tours, standing ovations and two sold out seasons at Sydney Opera House.

For one-night-only Micheline will perform at Judith Wright Centre, offering Belgian chocolates at the end of the concert!

-ENDS-

Date	Saturday 17 October 2009
Time	7.30pm
Venue	Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
Tickets	Reserved Cabaret Seating \$45, Unreserved Theatre Seating Full \$39, Concession \$34

For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact
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MICHELINE – BIOGRAPHY

“If the key to Cabaret is engaging with the audience, then Belgian singer Micheline Van Hautem has perfected the art.... A performer with the ability to grab hold of audiences and transport them to another world”

The Adelaide Review

“The charismatic Micheline never holds back. She sets the scene for each song and captivates her audience completely...” *broadwaybaby.com*, Edinburgh Festival 2006

“Van Hautem has one of the best female voices I’ve heard in recent times - rich, edgy and powerful, it is also unashamedly sensual.” *The Press*

Born and raised in Ghent, Micheline Van Hautem stepped out into the vast world of music ten years ago, armed with only her voice and her guitar. Her first stop was New York, a melting pot of inspiring nationalities and cultures. To set her apart from other grand performers in the city, the Belgian born, Dutch/Flemish/French speaking muse sang songs primarily in French, in particular Jacques Brel and Edith Piaf. It wasn’t long before she found herself performing sold out concerts with her band Mich en Scene at The Florence Gould Hall in Manhattan.

As a result of the CD, *Songs of Jacques Brel* (2001), recorded with Mich en Scene in The Netherlands, she toured extensively in theatres from New York to Amsterdam and was invited as a guest for radio and TV shows.

The Songs of Jacques Brel led her to Edinburgh – where she was honored with the prestigious Herald Angel Award - then on to Australia, where she and accordionist Frederik Caelen performed their CD *Madame 2005*, an ode to inspiring women, to packed audiences. During their second international tour, they received standing ovations, twice selling out the Sydney Opera House. In Europe, *Madame* was enthusiastically received, selling out the Concert Hall in Amsterdam.

Micheline’s travels throughout the world inspired her to begin writing original songs. Her intro’s and explanations of her French repertoire blossomed into fully-fledged songs like *City of Diamonds* and *Someone Else*. Micheline’s self-willed song programs have gained widespread recognition on the international podia. Her most recent project, *Chocolat*, is a carefully chosen selection of songs that Micheline has written or passionately interpreted. In 2008 and 2009, she will be performing *Chocolat* in theaters world wide, offering Belgian chocolates at the end of every concert!