

Music review: MICHELINE SINGS BREL

THE SCOTSMAN



by GARY FLOCKHART * Published on the 23 August 2013

THAT Jacques Brel's nephew rates Micheline Van Hautem as the best female interpreter of his uncle's songs is more ringing an endorsement of her talents than any review could give her.

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The Famous Spiegeltent

Another claim to fame is that [Madonna](#) is a fan, as is Crowded House crooner Tim Finn, with whom she has collaborated. It's a neat touch, too, that this bowler-hatted Belgian is currently performing in the same cabaret tent – The Famous Spiegeltent – where her famous countryman once appeared. Accompanied by musician Bert Verschueren, she serves up arresting renditions of Amsterdam, Bruxelles, Marieke and Ne Me Quitte Pas, among others. Like Fringe favourite Camille O'Sullivan – sadly, she's not appearing this year – Van Hautem not only breathes new life into these classics, she effortlessly transforms herself into the many characters who inhabit Brel's often dark narratives.

This, in a nutshell, is five-star quality entertainment – and an absolute must for any [Brel](#) fan.

photo: Janneke Michels