

## The Billie Holiday Story

Fresh from huge success at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2011 this fantastic show is looking to tour during 2012.

[www.ninakristoffersonsbillieholidaystory.com](http://www.ninakristoffersonsbillieholidaystory.com)

<http://www.guildford.gov.uk/article/9222/Billie-Holiday-Story>

Described by The Times as 'hypnotizing, captivating, electrifying' actress, singer and writer Nina Kristofferson is bringing her very special show to non fringe audiences during 2012.

The musical play is a brilliant cocktail of songs and stories from Billie Holiday's life woven through the haunting memories that plagued her.

The show takes you through the highs and lows of Billie Holiday's career punctuating each story with some of her greatest hits like God Bless The Child, Lover Man, Strange Fruit, Don't Explain, All of me and many more. Billie's unusual timbre tells a story like no other jazz singer. Her phrasing and timing is heartfelt as she takes you on a journey which encapsulates her many influences including prostitution, the cops, doing time and the effects drugs had on her life. Her relationship with men, her work, the abuse she suffered by those who took advantage of her. What drove her and finally killed her.

The story embraces Billie at her best and at her worst giving you an understanding of what she had to endure to survive to become the legend that she is today. Her story is timeless and echoes so many artistes in general who embrace the jazz, pop, screen, theatre and rock world. Billie Holiday the unforgettable Lady Day... We love you Billie!

### Extracts of recent reviews for The Billie Holiday Story

British Theatre Guide \*\*\*\*

If you like Billie Holiday, you'll love this. I do, and I did.

Nina Kristofferson tells Holiday's story from childhood on through a little chat to the audience - and talking to God! - but primarily through her music, around a dozen songs chosen for their relevance and impeccably performed. She has Holiday's physical mannerisms in performance perfectly and her phrasing is spot-on but, above all, she invests each song with deep emotion. In particular, that most moving of songs, "Strange Fruit", sends the same shiver through the listener as it did in Holiday's own performance right from the first notes.

She is accompanied on piano by the excellent Warren Wills and together they produce a splendid recreation of a very idiosyncratic and powerful singer.

It's very much a show for the *aficionado* but if you like jazz and the blues but haven't yet tried Billie Holiday, give it a go!

Informed Edinburgh \*\*\*\*\*

There is one outstanding reason why this is even better than listening to the real Billie Holiday live would have been – Nina Kristofferson, who wrote the piece, is a singer at the very peak of her powers and not the tragic wreck that Lady Day became at the end of her career [...] Nina Kristofferson has a remarkable range, capable of extreme raunchiness in her lower register and extreme sweetness in her top notes. She invests each song made famous by Billie Holiday with a passion that makes it sound as if it has just been written, and narrates the story with great skill.

Although this is so much more than a trip through the Billie Holiday songbook of greatest hits, it is true that in the care of such an accomplished singer and piano player, “Strange Fruit” has lost none of its power to still, thrill, and chill an audience.

#### The List

Under the pretence of a gig, actress Nina Kristofferson uses the ‘stage patter’ sections of the show to provide narrative about the singer’s tragic life, whilst nailing down Holiday’s voice and mannerisms. Enjoyable insight into a unique talent, plagued by men, drugs, racism and the law.