

FRANK FONTANA

"a gentle jazz artist"

Barbara and Scott Siegel, *TheaterMania.com*[FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK HERE](#)

last updated  
Sunday, 16-Jan-05 17:17:54 EST

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**CABARET REVIEW - PENNSYLVANIA**  
**Brian Lane Green at ODETTE'S**

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**Brian Lane Green**  
**The Cabaret at Odette's**  
**New Hope, Pennsylvania**



It has been a couple of years since Brian Lane Green graced the stage at THE CABARET at Odette's (South River Road, New Hope, PA - 215-862-3000 -

<http://www.odettes.com/>), performing in "Three Men and a Baby Grand" with Lee Lessack and John Boswell. This time, Brian returned alone, accompanied by Lewis Goldberg at the piano.

Smartly dressed in a black suit and white shirt, Brian moved effortlessly about the stage. Keeping his patter to a minimum, and thus maximizing the number of songs he performed, Brian's return to Odette's was a smashing success. Blessed with a mature and powerful tenor voice, he took command of the stage with his opening number, "Listen to My Heart," the David Friedman song closely associated with the late Nancy LaMott. Brian handles this song with impeccable phrasing and emotional tenderness.

From show-stopping songs like "Taking the Wheel," to romantic ballads like "Ten Minutes Ago," Brian was always spellbinding. There was not one song that he did not pour his heart into with spectacular results. His vocal techniques remain superlative, and he reaches into his theatrical training as an actor to inhabit every selection. What is perhaps most remarkable about Mr. Green's performance is that it is totally natural and unaffected - we believe that he is truly feeling every song. Perhaps this is the talent of a gifted actor, when you forget he is acting and just believe he is that character. This is probably Brian's greatest attribute as a performer - he conveys the depth, emotion and nuance in every song. You hear the lyrics, you feel the emotion of the song, and you understand what the composer is trying to say.

Brian sells every song through the richness of his voice and his subtle, yet always effective body movements, gestures and facial expressions. His diction and phrasing are perfect, and he finds the nuances in every song. At times he was charming and subtle, as when he stood center stage with his hands in his pockets and a wistful look to sing "Ten Minutes Ago." In Brian's capable hands, the song became an anthem of hope and longing. Equally effective was Brian's soft treatment of another Rodgers and Hammerstein song, "Some Enchanted Evening."

Several other songs stand out, including "Kiss Her Now" from "Dear World," which Brian performs with great energy. Radiating good will and joy, he launched into "Oh What a Beautiful Morning" paired with "Something's Coming." His interpretation was right on with both songs.

His delivery of the now classic "Marie," composed by Randy Newman, was flawless. Perched on a stool and wearing a baseball cap, Brian gave us a child's view of divorce in the beautifully touching "Two Homes." One of the highlights of the show had to be "Flight." Brian's live performance of this song is absolutely mesmerizing. Listen to it on his solo CD - his interpretation takes you on the journey of the song. The songs of John Bucchino ended the show, with the introspective "Better Than I" and his encore, "Grateful."

Lewis Goldberg proved to be a highly dexterous technician who was completely in tune with the volume of Brian's voice and the limitations of the room. Though there did not seem to be a theme to Brian's show, the audience was treated to an hour of really outstanding songs by this seasoned and engaging performer.

It has been nearly 6 years since Brian's debut solo CD. After seeing this show, I anxiously await his next release, and can only hope that some of the songs in this show are included.

THE CABARET at Odette's is located on South River Road, New Hope, PA

- 215-862-3000 - <http://www.odettes.com/>

Richard Edgcomb & Stephen Hart

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