

BY SKIP SHEFFIELD

# ROYAL ROOM CABARET CONTINUES ALL SUMMER IN PALM BEACH

Take *that* summer doldrums! The Royal Room Cabaret of the landmark Colony Hotel in Palm Beach is celebrating its tenth anniversary by defying tradition and refusing to go on hiatus after Easter as was customary.



This year the Royal Room has barreled through with more stars than ever scheduled every weekend through Labor Day. Some are legendary Broadway and cabaret stars, others are just starting out.

Completing their second weekend July 1 and 2 of a two-week engagement are rising cabaret stars Will and Anthony Nunziata. The identical twins, 27, are just a few years out of Boston College, but they have become troupers, and the Colony Hotel is one of their favorite stops.

“Every time we visit the Colony it gets a little better,” declares Will Nunziata. “The Palm Beach audience has been so supportive. We love this area because our grandparents had a place in Delray Beach. We owe a lot to Rob Russell, who discovered us at a cabaret festival in New York, and Roger Everingham, who keeps inviting us back. It’s hard to believe

that this is our third time back in the space of a year.”

Rob Russell is the manager and artistic director of Royal Room Cabaret. Roger Everingham is vice-president and general manager of the Colony, located just a block south of Worth Avenue. The Colony has a storied past. Among its most notable residents were the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, who maintained a residence for several years in the penthouse of the hotel. The Windsor suite has been lovingly restored and is available to rent for ordinary folk. U.S. Presidents Bush and Clinton have stayed at the hotel, which has been a society favorite for more than 60 years.

Back by popular demand July 8-9 and July 15-16 is Mary Foster Conklin, winner of the 2010 Manhattan Association of Cabarets and Clubs (MAC) Award for Jazz Vocalist. Conklin has a Great

American Songbooks repertoire that spans eight decades and all styles.

Also back by popular demand July 22-23 and July 29-30 is Jeff Harner. Harner performed in both the Cole Porter and Noel Coward Centennials at Carnegie Hall. He has four solo CDs, three MAC Awards and four Back Stage Bistro Awards.

Aug. 5-6 and Aug. 12-13 marks the return of singer-pianist Daryl Sherman, who played Cole Porter’s Steinway at the Waldorf-Astoria for 14 years, and legendary bassist Jay Leonhart, who has backed such icons as Judy Garland and Frank Sinatra and younger stars Sting and Queen Latifah.

Aug. 19-20, Aug. 26-27 and Sept 2-3 will be the Royal Room Cabaret debut of singer Ariana Savalas, 22-year-old daughter of the late actor Telly Savalas. Ariana is known for her stories about growing up with celebrities in Hollywood as well as her vocal stylings. Despite her youth, she focuses on singers and songwriters from the 1930s to the 1950s.

Most shows are \$110 for dinner and show or \$70 for show only. The adjacent Polo Lounge presents Motown Friday Nights with Memory Lane and Rob Russell’s Cast Parties on Saturday. Call 561-659-8100 or 561-655-8430.



ARIANA SAVALAS



DARYL SHERMAN



JAY LEONHART



JEFF HARNAR



MARY FOSTER CONKLIN



WILL & ANTHONY NUNZIATA