**For press materials visit:**

[**https://www.reaf-sf.org/ono-with-funny-girl-press-page.html**](https://www.reaf-sf.org/ono-with-funny-girl-press-page.html)

**Press Contact:**

**Ken Henderson, Exec. Director The Richmond / Ermet Aid Foundation**

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**The Richmond/Ermet Aid Foundation (REAF) and cast members from the   
National Broadway touring company of**

## FUNNY GIRL presents

**The Diva’s Toast - An Evening of Music & Comedy**

## with special guest BRUCE VILANCH

## & featuring MELISSA MANCHESTER (who plays Rose Brice in Funny Girl)

**Monday, May 20, 2024 - 7:30 pm**

# Marines’ Memorial Theater - 609 Sutter St., San Francisco 94102

**FACEBOOK:** [**https://www.facebook.com/events/909281840895690**](https://www.facebook.com/events/909281840895690)

**WEBSITE:** [**https://www.reaf-sf.org/one-night-only-w--funny-girl.html**](https://www.reaf-sf.org/one-night-only-w--funny-girl.html)

**Bruce Vilanch** is an American comedy writer, songwriter and actor who has won two Emmy Awards for his work on the Annual Academy Awards. He is also known for his appearance as a celebrity participant and head writer on “*Hollywood Squares”* for four years. He was the head writer for the Oscars from 2000 to 2014, after being a co-writer for the previous ten years. He collaborated with hosts such as Whoopi Goldberg, David Letterman, and Billy Crystal. He also acted in several movies and TV shows, such as *The Ice Pirates, Law & Order, You Don’t Mess with the Zohan,* and *Celebrity Fit Club.* He performed off-Broadway in his self-penned one-man show *Bruce Vilanch: Almost Famous* in 2000. He played the role of Edna Turnblad in the Broadway musical *Hairspray* in 2005. Bruce has appeared in numerous REAF benefits.

**Melissa Manchester**’s career is remarkable not only for its longevity and accomplishments but for its versatility. Following her time as a Harlette (Bette Midler’s back up singers), Melissa’s tremendously successful solo career brought her critical and commercial acclaim. The “Midnight Blue” singer received her first [Grammy nomination for Best Pop Female Vocal Performance in 1979](https://www.grammy.com/grammys/artists/melissa-manchester/4222) for the Peter Allen/Carole Bayer Sager-penned “Don’t Cry Out Loud,” winning the Grammy in that category four years later for “You Should Hear How She Talks About You.” In 1980, Melissa became the first recording artist in the history of the Academy Awards to have two nominated movie themes in a single year, “Through The Eyes Of Love” from Ice Castles and “I’ll Never Say Goodbye” from The Promise, and to perform them both on the Oscar telecast.

She has appeared on both the large (*For The Boys*) and small (NBC hit *Blossom*) screen, as well as the stage.  Melissa starred in the national tours of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s *Music Of The Night*and *Song And Dance*. She also co-created (with lyricist Sharon Vaughn and playwright Rupert Holmes) the musical theatre sensation *Sweet Potato Queens*, which premiered at Theater Under The Stars in Houston in 2016.Melissa has also had her songs recorded by [Barbra Streisand, Roberta Flack](https://melissamanchester.com/gallery/), Dusty Springfield, Alison Krauss, Kenny Loggins, and many others. She has written tunes for several other films including *The Great Mouse Detective, Lady and the Tramp II, Dirty Girl,* and Tyler Perry’s *For Colored Girls.*

She celebrated her 45-year career with the release of her 21st album in 2017, *The Fellas*, a tribute to the iconic male singers who set the platinum standard for the music of the great American songbook. She’s already thinking ahead to a possible second volume. Her upcoming album, *RE:VIEW*, due out in 2024, features previously unreleased songs as well as fresh takes on several of Melissa’s enduring classic hits.

Philanthropy and stellar entertainment take center stage as the Richmond/Ermet Aid Foundation (REAF) presents a special One-Night-Only Benefit Cabaret to raise funds for The Richmond /Ermet Aid Foundation and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Cast members will sing a variety of songs of their own choosing. *Songs from FUNNY GIRL will not be performed.*

The Richmond/Ermet Aid Foundation has worked with over 65 touring casts to date to produce "One Night Only Cabaret" events. To date, REAF has distributed well over $4.5 million to AIDS service agencies, hunger programs and programs for homeless youth.

Tickets for this "One Night Only Cabaret" are  
$100 – VIP Front Orchestra – includes cocktails & desserts after party with the cast

$65 – Rear and Side Orchestra Reserved

$40 – Balcony

**Tickets are available online:** [**https://ONO-FunnyGirl.eventbrite.com**](https://ONO-FunnyGirl.eventbrite.com)

**CALENDAR LISTINGS:**

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**FOR INFO CALL: 415- 264-0926** **or visit:**

[**https://www.reaf-sf.org/one-night-only-w--funny-girl.html**](https://www.reaf-sf.org/one-night-only-w--funny-girl.html)

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