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Judge Smith and the Young Offenders

There's a rare opportunity to hear Judge performing live on 7 October, when he appears at the Vortex Jazz Bar in Stoke Newington, North London. As 'Judge Smith and the Young Offenders', he's accompanied by Bass player Ian Fordham and pianist/accordionist Michael Ward-Bergeman in a series of Judge's songs. He'll be performing some numbers from 'Curly's Airships' and 'Dome of Discovery', but mostly new and previously unheard material that can be described as 'English Chanson'.

The evening is one of the monthly 'Pirate Jenny's' Chanson clubs held at the Vortex, and English Chanson is the name that's been given to style of literate music-cabaret entertainment that's far more common in Europe, but is now rapidly growing in popularity in the UK, with a series of clubs and concerts catering for an enthusiastic audience.

More info on the site of [Des de Moor](#), host of Pirate Jenny's which has some excellent information about the English Chanson scene.

Judge's half-hour set is a long way from the live performances of 'Curly' that remains his ambition, but he's relishing the chance to perform in public again. On the 7 October Judge and the Young Offenders will be the support act for French chansonnier Francois Raffenaud.

THE VORTEX JAZZ BAR

www.vortexjazz.co.uk

139-141 Stoke Newington Church Street LONDON N16

Reservations +44 (0)20 7254 6516

Times 20:00-23:15 hrs

Admission £6.00/5.00 (€9.00/7.50)

Hot food, licensed bar

Rail Stoke Newington (WAGN Liverpool Street)

Underground Manor House 2km

Bus 73 past the door (Victoria, Oxford Circus, Euston, Islington);

67, 76, 106, 149, 243 to Stoke Newington High Street

An extract from the Pirate Jenny's Yahoo Groups newsletter
pirate_jenny@yahoogroups.com

Tuesday 7 October 2003

UN SAISON EN CHANSON II

Francois Raffenaud - Judge Smith and the Young Offenders - Des de Moor

Pirate Jenny's autumn "saison en chanson" continues tonight with debut appearances at Pirate Jenny's for two outstanding acts from France and England.

French-based singer and actor FRANCOIS RAFFENAUD offers authentic and distinctive performances of a broad repertoire of French song, from well-established classics to little-known gems, making the work comprehensible to English-speaking audiences with a mix of original texts, accurate translations and partially-translated songs. He's an imaginative, passionate and insightful interpreter who also brings a wry sense of humour to both French and British culture, having lived here for a while performing his

previous show Froggy Style after working with the French National Theatre since the age of 20.

Over the past couple of years Francois has been touring all over France as the MC in a lavish Lido-style extravaganza, but popped back to London when this new, intimate cabaret show ran at the Rosemary Branch back in June. Expect first class performances of familiar tunes and revelatory surprises from unexpected sources, ably assisted by the inimitable DAVID HARROD on piano.

"A fine performer...[his] sensual delivery and hangdog good looks drag you through the emotional trauma of each song." Time Out.

"The best kind of cabaret evening, not only showcasing a superb interpreter but also introducing a repertoire of extraordinary range and depth." The Stage.

Also featuring tonight are some inventive new English chansons from JUDGE SMITH AND THE YOUNG OFFENDERS. Judge was the original drummer and joint singer and composer with cult British rock band Van Der Graaf Generator, and has continued to work ever since with that band's leading light, individualistic songwriter Peter Hammill, as well as writing songs for Lene Lovich and classic TV satire Not The Nine O'Clock News. In 2000 he released his magnum opus *Curly's Airships*, a song-story inspired by the story of the ill-fated airship R-101, and has recently starting gigging again with a set of unusual and original songs in the company of pianist RIKKI PATTEN and bassist IAN FORDHAM. A rare chance to catch a great British talent.

Plus there's the usual mini-set from PJ bosun DES DE MOOR, "one of our leading interpreters of the cabaret-chanson tradition" (Guardian).

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