

**“I’m afraid people will think it’s going to be some dry thing — a lecture —and it’s really entertainment. My father once told me ‘If you want somebody to remember what you have to say, make them laugh.’ I have really tried to carry that out into everything I do.”**

— Elaine St. George, cabaret singer  
and creator of ‘The Girl That I Marry’

member of Jersey Pride Inc., said she was first exposed to St. George through her work as part of the New Jersey Lesbian Gay Coalition Domestic Partnership Task Force, which joined with the township of Maplewood and Jersey Pride Inc. to celebrate the passing of the domestic partnership law. St. George not only got partnered with Simonds that day but also performed part of her show during the celebration.

“She’s a dynamic cabaret performer who engages an audience and she is one of the best people to carry the banner for this,” Rase said.

St. George said this particular show started back in 1999, when she was about to put together her second cabaret show. He first was called “All I Need Is the Girl,” and when she decided to write a second show about relationships, she chose the title first.

“I chose ‘The Girl That I Marry’ because it is provocative. I never thought I might be at a point where I might be able to marry. Back then it was just a provocative and fun title,” St. George said.

But last summer, before the presidential primary, when Massachusetts was considering allowing gay marriage, St. George said word started to circulate that it might actually happen.

She said she thought the time was right to do a show about gay marriage, and so she decided to revive and revise “The Girl That I Marry” with all new material but to keep the name.

Actually, the name is the only part of the song that resonates with St. George, as the lyrics from the original Broadway show “Annie Get Your Gun” are quite dated and not very liberal in their depiction of women.

“They are kind of icky,” St. George said. “Don’t get me wrong, I love Irving Berlin and I mean no disrespect but ...”

While St. George writes the show, she does not write any of the music. Instead she sings the

songs of Harold Arlen, Jerome Kern, Johnny Mercer, Rodgers & Hart, Stephen Sondheim and Berlin, among others.

“There are people who write music and they are brilliant, but I’m not a do-it-yourselfer when it comes to creating cabaret shows.”

What she does create is the humor and the banter between the songs and the theme that the show follows.

This time around, “The Girl That I Marry” is a completely different show, St. George said. “It’s much more pointed with more political satire. It’s much more poignant and has much more heart and humor in it.”

The humor is a very important part of the show for St. George.

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St. George said she has a great jazz duo of Adam Armstrong on bass and Pat Firth on piano, whom she refers to as “the honorary lesbians.”

The response to the show has been great, she said.

“My favorite published review called the show subversive, and I thought that’s absolutely right on target. And my favorite personal review was a woman at Playwrights Horizons who said, ‘My husband and I have long been supporters of gay rights ... but your show made me understand gay marriage in a whole new way.’

“That’s what really showed me that in addition to being fun musically and an entertaining music/cabaret show that it could also be something that does some good in the world.”

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