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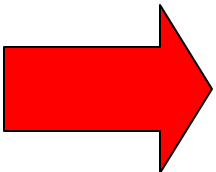
## The Hideaway Room at Helen's

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### ***Star performers inaugurate brand-new cabaret space***

I recently got a very good introduction to The Hideaway Room at Helen's, a new cabaret in the space once occupied by Judy's Chelsea. My "cabaret insider" friends have long said that Judy's was the most nicely appointed room in the city. I'm happy to report that Helen's, after expanding the cabaret space by several square feet and applying polish to the entire venue, outdoes its predecessor. Co- owners Colm Reilly and Shane Mathews are warm and sociable hosts, important qualities for giving a cabaret character and making it inviting. The first two acts I saw at Helen's also set a pretty darn high mark for quality, as did the first act to play the venue, none other than "queen of cabaret" Julie Wilson. This new room fairly hums with potential. Neither of these great shows had half the audience they deserved, so I heartily suggest you make your way to this new Chelsea landmark...



That fineness is shared by Elaine St. George in her solo act ***The Girl I Marry***. St. George combines a great mezzo voice with interpretive skill approaching that of a Keely Smith or Christine Ebersole, and she also infuses these cabaret glories with mighty lesbionic - and mighty romantic and sophisticated - patter about gay marriage. How very subversive is her simple assumption of the rightness of same-sex pairing coated with old-fashioned American Songbook sentimentality (she's released an EP of songs from this act that all have something "old-fashioned" about them). A classically croony club act focused on people of the same sex spending their lives together? What a delicious new wrinkle this is!