# Meow Meow’s cabaret at Soho Theatre revives Weimar-era satire to confront today’s political unrest



In her latest performance, "It’s Come to This" at London’s Soho Theatre, the charismatic cabaret artist Meow Meow, known offstage as Melissa Madden Gray, stirs a blend of humour and haunting reflection. With an innate ability to oscillate between satirical commentary and poignant musical moments, she claims, “I do think in 90 mins, we can really make a difference.” This statement, while cheeky, underscores an urgent theme echoing throughout her act: the role of the artist amid rising societal tensions and tyranny.

The backdrop of Meow Meow's show is steeped in the spirit of the Weimar Republic, a tumultuous time in Germany, which inspires much of her repertoire. Songs from this era, like Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill's "Ballad of the Soldier’s Wife," make an appearance, intertwining with more contemporary reflections on current political climates. As she moves between musical styles, combining chanson with her signature clownish antics, it becomes clear that the cabaret isn’t merely an escape, but a platform for deeper inquiry into artistic responsibility.

Audience interaction forms a lively part of Meow Meow's performances, frequently incorporating willing spectators into the chaotic tapestry of her show. This dynamic approach serves to engage attendees in a somewhat surreal spectacle, where the line between performer and audience blurs. With Ben Dawson at the piano, the production also serves as an exploration of how intimate and personal the cabaret experience can be, both for the performer and the audience members who find themselves caught up in her elaborate rituals.

Yet, amid the laughter and cheer, the narrative takes a more somber turn as Meow Meow addresses alarming parallels between past and present. Her reflections on the resurgence of far-right ideologies resonate starkly with historical lessons drawn from the 1930s, effectively making her performance not just entertaining but a clarion call against complacency. “I don’t know,” she admits, her voice amplifying the chilling uncertainty that accompanies such a dire reflection, as she beckons her audience to consider their own roles in this narrative.

Reviews of her performances across various venues highlight her ability to evoke laughter while simultaneously inviting contemplation. At Carnegie Hall, her show titled "Sequins and Satire, Divas and Disruptors: The Wild Women of the Weimar Republic" garnered praise for its chaotic yet engaging format, with performances celebrated for blending humour and heartfelt ballads seamlessly. Reactions from other parts of the world, including the Bay Area and during the Adelaide Cabaret Festival, echo this sentiment, revealing her reach and the universal appeal of her artistic style.

Meow Meow’s artistry encapsulates an essential fusion of entertainment and social critique, reaffirming that cabaret can be a reflective mirror to society. Her performances not only entertain but provoke vital conversations about identity, history, and the responsibilities of artists in an ever-complex world. By the conclusion of “It’s Come to This,” the audience is left not just with a memory of glorious music and laughter, but with an unsettling invitation to consider the significant questions of our time.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2. Paragraphs 2, 3, 4
3. Paragraphs 2, 5
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5. Paragraphs 1, 2, 5
6. Paragraphs 1, 2, 5
7. Paragraphs 1, 2, 5

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2025/may/11/meow-meow-review-cabaret-soho-theatre-london> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2025/may/11/meow-meow-review-cabaret-soho-theatre-london> - In this review, Meow Meow, also known as Melissa Madden Gray, delivers a dynamic performance at London's Soho Theatre. The show, titled 'It's Come to This,' blends Weimar-era songs with contemporary themes, showcasing Meow Meow's unique style that combines chanson with clownish comedy. The performance includes audience interaction, with attendees being invited on stage, and delves into political themes, questioning the role of artists in challenging times. The review highlights Meow Meow's powerful voice and engaging stage presence.
3. <https://www.broadwayworld.com/cabaret/article/Review-Meow-Meow-Sets-Carnegie-Hall-on-Fire-with-Laughter-20240326> - This article reviews Meow Meow's performance at Carnegie Hall on March 23, 2024. The show, 'Sequins and Satire, Divas and Disruptors: The Wild Women of the Weimar Republic,' pays tribute to influential women from the Weimar era. Meow Meow's performance is described as a 'kamikaze cabaret,' filled with chaotic, unexpected moments and audience interaction. The review praises her ability to blend bawdy humor with poignant torch songs, creating a memorable and entertaining evening.
4. <https://sfbaytimes.com/bay-area-cabaret-roars-back-with-meow-meow/> - This article discusses Meow Meow's performance in the Bay Area, highlighting her captivating rendition of 'Surabaya-Johnny' in German. Accompanied by Emmy-award winning musical director Lance Horne, Meow Meow's performance is described as mesmerizing, with the audience captivated by her expressive vocals and stage presence. The piece emphasizes the depth and authenticity she brings to her performances, leaving a lasting impression on attendees.
5. <https://www.montecitojournal.net/2024/03/19/a-purr-fect-show/> - This article reviews Meow Meow's performance at the Lobero Theatre as part of the UCSB Arts & Lectures series. The show, 'Sequins and Satire, Divas and Disruptors: The Wild Women of the Weimar Republic,' honors influential women from the Weimar era. Meow Meow's performance is described as energized and captivating, with audience participation and a mix of humor and poignant moments. The review highlights her ability to blend art, entertainment, and social commentary effectively.
6. <https://onstagepittsburgh.com/2023/11/07/meow-meow-is-a-post-post-modern-diva-that-delivers-raucous-comedy-with-a-riveting-message/> - This article reviews Meow Meow's performance at the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust’s Greer Cabaret Theater. The show is described as blending comedy with political commentary, with Meow Meow engaging the audience through humor and thought-provoking themes. The performance includes costume changes and audience interaction, with a memorable closing number involving male audience volunteers. The review praises Meow Meow's ability to deliver a raucous comedy with a riveting message.
7. <https://www.aussietheatre.com.au/reviews/adelaide-cabaret-festival-meow-meow> - This article reviews Meow Meow's performance at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival. The show is described as a continual highlight, with Meow Meow's expressive vocals and comedic interactions with the audience. The review emphasizes the high-energy production and Meow Meow's ability to balance humor with emotional depth, creating a captivating experience for the audience.