

PRESS CONTACT

KAREN GRECO

212-560-9868

karen@kgrecopr.com

JEN GUSHUE

MARKETING MANAGER

646-892-7982

jen@59e59.org



Rita Rudner returns to the NYC stage in the NYC premiere of the new musical comedy *TWO'S A CROWD*

New York, New York June 4, 2019—**59E59 Theaters** (Val Day, Artistic Director; Brian Beirne, Managing Director) is thrilled to welcome comedy icon **Rita Rudner** in the NYC premiere of *TWO'S A CROWD*, with a book by Ms. Rudner and Martin Bergman, music and lyrics by Jason Feddy, and direction by Mr. Bergman. Produced by Impro Theatre in association with Ritmar Productions, Inc., *TWO'S A CROWD* begins performances on **Saturday, July 13** for a limited engagement through **Sunday, August 25**. **Press Opening is Sunday, July 21 at 2 PM**. The performance schedule is **Tuesday – Friday at 7 PM; Saturday at 2 PM & 7 PM; and Sunday at 2 PM**. **Please note there is an added performance on Sunday, July 14 at 7 PM**. Performances are at **59E59 Theaters** (59 East 59th Street, between Park and Madison). Single tickets are **\$25 - \$70** (\$49 for 59E59 Members). To purchase tickets, call the **59E59 Box Office** at **646-892-7999** or visit www.59e59.org. The running time is 85 minutes, no intermission.

They say opposites attract. They haven't met Tom and Wendy. Forced together by a computer error, freewheeling Tom and uptight Wendy do their best to ruin each other's vacations. But the bright lights of Vegas might just convince them to take a chance on the happiness they both gave up on long ago.

Ground-breaking comedy icon **Rita Rudner** returns to the NY stage to star in this light-hearted musical comedy that is a perfect summer confection. She is joined onstage by **Kelly Holden Bashar** (*Fargo* on FX), **Brian Lohmann** (*Off Broadway's Lifegame*), and **Robert Yacko** (*Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and *The Price* at the Mark Taper Forum).

The set and lighting design team is by Tessa Bookwalter and sound design is by Jonathan Burke of Jabworks. The production stage manager is **John Concannon**.

BIOS

Rita Rudner (book writer/performer) moved to New York at the age of fifteen to dance on Broadway. She appeared in several Broadway musicals, including the original productions of *Follies* and *Mack and Mabel*. While she was appearing in *Annie* on Broadway, Rita began exploring NYC's comedy clubs. She applied the same learning techniques she had acquired as a dancer to comedy, spending hours studying recordings by Jack Benny and Woody Allen and analyzing comedy construction.



59E59 THEATERS
59 EAST 59TH STREET
NEW YORK
NY 10022

212-753-595
WWW.59E59.ORG

She developed her trademark epigrammatic style and took a full-time leap from chorus lines to punch lines in the early eighties. A frequent guest on both *Late Night with David Letterman* and *The Tonight Show* during this time, Rita also appeared often on HBO.

Her first solo HBO special, *Rita Rudner's One Night Stand*, was nominated for several awards, as was her English BBC television show which later appeared on A&E. Rita's two one-hour specials for HBO, *Born to Be Mild* and *Married Without Children*, were ratings standouts. She performed all over the country, filling Carnegie Hall in New York three times and the Universal Amphitheatre in Los Angeles twice. She also performed sell-out tours of Australia and England.

In 1984 Rita met Martin Bergman, a British producer and writer, and began collaborating professionally as well as personally, marrying in 1989. The movie *Peter's Friends* was their first produced script. It starred Emma Thompson, Hugh Laurie, Stephen Fry, Imelda Staunton, Kenneth Branagh & Rita and won the Peter Seller's award for best comedy film and best ensemble acting. In America, it was nominated for Best Original Script by the Writers' Guild. *A Weekend in the Country*, also created by the couple, marked Martin's directorial debut. Rita co-starred with Jack Lemmon, Dudley Moore, and Richard Lewis.

In 2000 the MGM Grand in Las Vegas invited Rita to fill a six-week window in their theater. Six weeks turned into six months. Rita's show became the hottest ticket in town. MGM built Rita her own 450 seat theater at its sister property New York New York. In 2006, Rita moved to an even bigger theatre at Harrah's to which she returned in 2014 after a three year run at The Venetian. She holds the record for the longest-running solo comedy show in the history of Las Vegas and received the 2017 Casino Entertainment Legend Award.

Rita Rudner: Live From Las Vegas aired on PBS in conjunction with a DVD release thru Image Entertainment. She also performed live for President Obama in Las Vegas alongside Bette Midler and Sheryl Crow.

In 2003, Rita launched her first syndicated daily TV show *Ask Rita*, in key markets across the country. She received the Women in Television and Radio Top Program Host award. Rita also found time to help Steve Martin write the 2001 and 2003 Academy Awards.

Rita has written five books, including include the best-selling *Naked Beneath My Clothes, I Still Have It...I Just Can't Remember Where I Put It* and *Rita Rudner's Guide to Men*.

Her latest comedy special *Rita Rudner: A Tale of Two Dresses* can be streamed on Amazon Prime.

Martin Bergman's (book writer/director) past projects as a producer include *Torvill & Dean: The World Tour*, Australian arena tours of The Bolshoi Ballet, The Moscow Circus, The Royal Shakespeare Company, and The Harlem Globetrotters, plus his wife's successful run in Las Vegas. Past projects as a writer and director include the films *Peter's Friends*, *A Weekend In The Country* and *Thanks*, the syndicated TV series *Ask Rita* and the plays *Tickled Pink* and now *Two's A Crowd*. ###