

chapel
off chapel



Hold The Pickle

written and performed by

Rachel Berger

Media enquiries:

Rachel Berger - 0418 382 215
boomboom@rachelberger.com
www.rachelberger.com

**NOMINATED FOR
3 GREEN ROOM AWARDS**

Hold The Pickle

Returns for 12 shows only in 2009

"Rachel Berger is well known as a comedian, a performer who delivers rapid-fire lines with assertive and acerbic virtuosity. In Hold the Pickle, however, she leaves the microphone behind to paint an intimate portrait of her parents' life story, and by extension her own cultural heritage. Scores of characters come to life, each crafted with affection and wry observation. But this is no mere sentimental nostalgia trip, and Berger's honesty in exploring the gamut of family life is a key factor in the success of Hold the Pickle." The Age

In 2008 Rachel sold out her debut theatre piece at La Mama and Chapel off Chapel.

Now, once again she opens the door of her parents' delicatessen and delivers stories of heartbreak, loss and longing, fear and belonging. Oh, and schnitzels.

But there's more... the art of survival; the frightening cost of war not only upon those directly effected, but on the succeeding generation; the struggle of immigrants to rebuild their lives; the birth of the cosmopolitan culture that has at long last become an integral part of this city; the ways in which parents can unwittingly traumatise their own children.

Experience the shrieking, the embraces, the flagellation and overflowing anxiety of her parents' journey from war torn Europe to 1960s Melbourne, Hundreds & Thousands sandwiches and Vegemite.

Berger plays out the angst and energy of her immigrant childhood by inviting the audience into a world populated by eccentric, heartbroken, adorable and sometimes embittered characters.

After 22 years as a stand-up comedian, growing up with Jewish guilt and refugee parents, Rachel Berger knows more about survival than any idiot attending tribal council on reality TV. She is one of Australia's most highly regarded, adept, and adaptive comedic talents, working variously as a broadcaster, comic, novelist, columnist, agitator and television entertainer.

"Cleverly balancing her comic skills with poignant story-telling." The Herald Sun

June 9 - June 21

Times: Tues to Sat 8.00pm ~ Sun 6.00pm

Tickets: \$35 Full, \$25 Con and Grps 10+ (+ transaction fee)

Bookings: 8290 7000 or www.chapeloffchapel.com.au

Chapel Off Chapel - 12 Little Chapel St, Prahran



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