



Joe C. Brown and Robin Rayner
present VELMA CELLI in

**Iconic -
A Brief History of Drag**
Assembly Festival Checkpoint
1- 26 August

Direct from 5* sell-out performances in Australia and across the UK, drag superstar Velma Celli delivers an electrifying cabaret featuring the legendary music of Queen, Bowie, Boy George, Lady Gaga, Tina Turner and more in **Iconic - A Brief History of Drag**. Forget lip-synching for your life, supported by backing singers and an onstage band, this is singing for your soul – from one of the West End's leading performers.

Velma Celli is the alter-ego of Ian Strouhair who has performed in the hit musicals *Cats*, *Fame*, *Chicago* and *Rent*, where he received critical acclaim for his portrayal as Angel. As Velma Celli he had a two-year-long residency at The Hippodrome, London and enjoyed sold out shows at 54 Below, NYC, and London's Charing Cross Theatre. Ian recently appeared on *EastEnders* and in Lucy Rose's music video, *Nebraska*, opposite Danny Dyer and filmed a guest spot on the new American series *Piss off, I Love You*. Ian was one half of hit show *Divallusion* (with American impressions star Christina Bianco) at the 2014 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, where they won the Three Weeks Edinburgh Award.

Ian said: "After an amazing reception in Australia, I am thrilled to get to share **Iconic - A Brief History of Drag** back home. This has been a passion project for such a long time and I can't wait to bring a touch of glamour to a month-long residency at the Edinburgh Fringe, at theatres across the UK, and in New York City!"

Show trailer: www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=QHlyTZgUZag

"Velma Celli is rapidly becoming the UK's Queen of live vocal drag" Broadway World

"Powerhouse vocals... a force to be reckoned with" Gay Times

"A sensational performer at the height of her game...an incredible performance" West End Frame

"Wonderfully witty and outrageously funny" ★★★★★ Musical Theatre Review

Perth World Fringe Best Cabaret nomination.

Web: www.iconicdrag.com **Web:** www.assemblyfestival.com **Twitter:** [@VelmaCelli](https://twitter.com/VelmaCelli) **Facebook:** [VelmaCelliCabaret](https://www.facebook.com/VelmaCelliCabaret)

LISTING INFORMATION

Venue: Assembly Checkpoint, 3 Bristo Place, EH1 1EY

Time: 21.30 **Running Time:** 60mins

Dates: 01 – 26 August. Previews 1-2 August. No show Wed 8 August Tue 15 August.

Tickets: Previews (£10); 3-5, 9, 13, 14, 16, 20-23 (£12); 6-7, 10-12, 17-19, 24-26 August (£13)

Bookings: assemblyfestival.com, 0131 623 3030 or Assembly box offices at Assembly Hall, Assembly Roxy, Assembly George Square, Assembly Checkpoint and Assembly Rooms

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