ACT 1

The first act offers a window into Edith Piaf’s life before she became famous. Imagine that you are on the terrace of a small Parisian café, or on a cobbled square in Montmartre. This is where Piaf spent her earliest years, singing in the streets and depending on the kindness of strangers to toss her their loose change.

A young Edith Piaf enters to the sound of a moody accordion. She sings of her childhood growing up poor, and how she longed to spread her wings and fly away Like a Sparrow. Despite her sad words, there’s a smile on her face, because she is no longer that little girl.

Edith continues to remember her youth, speaking of how she used to sing for the terraces Between Saint-Ouen and Clignancourt, amongst the gangs of street kids, and the scents of French fries and lilacs.

She speaks of her first lovers, and daydreams of those days of innocence. In You Could Find Her on the Street Pigalle, she relays the story of when cabaret owner Louis Leplee discovered her on the corner in the Pigalle area, in 1935, with her sad pale face. In I Couldn’t Care Less, Edith throws off the judgement of the upper class, reveling in the freedom of her Sundays walking on the banks of Seine, rejoicing in the glitter of the dance halls at night, and the tenderness of a lover touch. It is Paris she loves with the scent of the chestnut trees, the light in the morning, and the music of its streets. Her love of Paris shifts to love of men with It’s a Guy, a man who loved and left her in tatters and My Legionnaire, an affair with an American army boy that wasn’t meant to last. In full swing, The Party Continues with the crowds, music, and carousels. With Bravo for the Clown/ Edith revels in the world of the circus, of clowns, musical delights, hidden vices, laughter, and The Sounds of the Dance Hall.

SET LIST ACT 1

Comme un Moineau
(Marc Hely/Jean Lenoir) © Les Nouvelles Editions MERIDIAN
La Java de Cezigue
(René Paul Grotte/Jean Eblinger) © SEMI
Les Mômes de la Cloche
(Decaye/Scotto Vincent) © Edition Fortin
L’Accordéoniste
(Michel Emer) © SEMI
Entre St Ouen et Clignancourt
(Eugene Sablon/Maurice Thireau) © Editions Francis Salabert
Elle Fréquentait la Rue Pigalle
(R.Asso/L.Maitrier) © 1939 by Editions Beuscher Arpège
La Goualante du Pauvre Jean
(René Rouzaud/Marguerite Monnot) © Beuscher Arpège et Wolfsohn Jacques Editions
Les Amants d’un Jour
Je m’en Fous Pas Mal
(Michel Emer) © Masspacher André Georges
Paris
(André Bernhem) © 1949 - Editions Raoul Breton
C’est un Gars
(Pierre Roche/Charles Aznavour) © Editions Raoul Breton
Mon légionnaire
The second act recreates some of the legendary performances Piaf gave after she had become a renowned artist performing on the world’s most renowned stages. Imagine sitting in the famous Olympia Theater in Paris, or at Carnegie Hall in 1957, when she gave one of her last memorable concerts.

Edith Piaf’s tumultuous relationship with love continues with the uplifting energy of You’re My Carousel, the dark betrayal of Jezebel, the sad goodbye of Autumn Leaves. The memories of those lost love affairs haunt Edith, beating like a wooden heart, Padam...Padam.

Not a woman to dwell in sadness, Edith is caught up in the passion of The Crowd, engulfed, buoyed, and carried away by a love as powerful and crazed as a rollicking mob. In a different tone, her Hymn to Love bares her soul as she surrenders herself entirely to her passion, promising to give up everything - country, home, friends - as long as it would keep love at her side. In My God, she even begs the heavens to keep her love at her side, just for one more day. With the world in her thrall, Edith Piaf embarks on the delicate and beautiful sentiment of her beloved La Vie en Rose. “Hold me close and hold me fast, the magic spell you cast, this is la vie en rose.”

SET LIST ACT 1

Mon Manège à Moi
(Jean Constantin/Norbert Glanzberg) © Les Nouvelles Editions Meridian

Jezebel

Les Feuilles Mortes
(Jacques Prévert/Joseph Kosma)

Padam... Padam...
(Norbert Glanzberg:Henri Contet) © Francis Salabert Editions

La Foule (Paroles originales de Enrique Dizeo. Paroles françaises de Michel Rivgauche. Musique de Angel Cabral © 1957 Editions Metropolitaines

Les Mot d’Amour (Michel Vaucaire/Charles Dumont) © Les Nouvelles Editions Meridian

Mon Dieu (Michel Vaucaire/Charles Dumont) © Les Nouvelles Editions Meridian

Hymne à l’Amour (Edith Piaf/Marguerite Monnot) © 1949 Editions Raoul Breton

La Vie en Rose (Edith Piaf/Louiguy) © 1946 Edition Beuscher Arpège

Non, Je ne Regrette Rien (Michel Vaucaire/Charles Dumont

Milord
(Marguerite Monnot/Joseph Mustacchi) © Francis Salabert Editions