

The SOURCE: SCENE

WHERE TO EAT, DRINK, AND PLAY IN DC

All that jazz—and much more! Broadway and TV star Bebe Neuwirth does a one-night-only cabaret show as part of Arena Stage's presentation of the Beth Newburger Schwartz Award.

BEBE ON THE BEAT

BEBE NEUWIRTH REVEALS WHAT FANS CAN EXPECT AT HER CABARET SHOW FOR ARENA STAGE.

Bebe Neuwirth's credits include Tony-winning performances as Nickie in *Sweet Charity* and Velma Kelly in *Chicago*, the Emmy-winning Dr. Lilith Crane on *Cheers* and *Frasier*, and currently Nadine Tolliver on CBS's *Madam Secretary*. She chats with us about art, cabaret, and working with the State Department.

Tell us about your cabaret show. "When I perform, it's about telling a story and inhabiting the emotional life of the character who is singing and telling these stories. I sing Kander and Ebb, of course, a lot of Kurt Weill, some Tom Waits. I know your audiences in DC are quite sophisticated, so I think there will be a range of pieces, from happy and funny to sweet, and some quite emotionally intense."

You're passionate about supporting the arts. "Art is how we know ourselves. In the greatest of tragedies, in the greatest of joyous moments, we turn to art to help us express or understand our feelings, to help us continue breathing." **What's it like to do *Madam Secretary*?** "It was very interesting when the show started—each side of the aisle claimed the administration as their own. The employees of the State Department have a very, very good and hilarious time when we're there." *May 1 at Arena Stage, 1101 Sixth St. SW, 202-488-3300; arenastage.org*