

Four Mortals Productions (Booth 155) present

# *Velvet Determination*

A musical journey about wrong notes, hard knocks, and the keys to success  
[www.VelvetDetermination.com](http://www.VelvetDetermination.com)



In this autobiographical solo show, actor and pianist Cynthia Shaw relates how she enjoyed her cheerful Colorado childhood of playing the piano and making music. All it took was picking up a random New Yorker magazine in her pediatrician's office to awaken her artistic soul, leading her to New York City and its esteemed Manhattan School of Music. As the student who struggled with shaky memorization, insufficient technique and the fear that no one truly wants to listen to her, she ultimately masters determination and resilience and overcomes the obstacles that confront this naive, wide-eyed young classical pianist who tackles the Big Apple. Throughout the show she beautifully demonstrates her formidable piano technique and musical sensitivity as she performs the live classical piano music of Beethoven, Bach, Brahms, Chopin, Debussy & Schubert.

Velvet Determination has been performed in **New York City** at The United Solo Festival (Best Festival Debut), 59e59 Theatres' "East to Edinburgh" Festival, Chain Theatre, Gene Frankel Theatre and the Hudson Guild Theatre. **Fringe and International** performances include Edinburgh, Galway, Reykyavik, Kiev (online), Millibo Art Theatre (Colorado Springs), Rochester, Pittsburgh (Best Solo Show), Capital and Boulder Fringes.



United Solo Festival



Pittsburgh Fringe



Boulder Fringe



Galway Fringe

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### What the critics have said...

"I left feeling uplifted, inspired and with the strong urge to play some piano." North West End UK

"...engaging presence on stage...She wows us with a fiendish piece of Brahms...but behind the pyrotechnics, there is a real psychological insight at work."  
TheReviewsHub

"Warm & wholehearted...an inspirational road to success."  
FringeBiscuit

"Rigorous and personable storyteller...extremely talented pianist."  
The Scotsman

"If you're looking for an uplifting affirmation of the rewards of hard work, look no further than Velvet Determination." AllAboutSolo

### What audiences have said....

"Such a dazzling performer who brought so much joy to the stage. I was thoroughly absorbed every minute, completely enraptured by both her piano playing and storytelling. Cynthia Shaw has an inspiring and positive message to share with the world." Ashley Ford at Edinburgh Fringe

"The making of a performer is frequently such a fraught journey, and you tell your story eloquently and candidly. I was moved to tears more than once. Looking forward to seeing and hearing more of your work!" Michele Eaton at NYC's 59e59 Street Theatres

[www.cynthiashaw.us](http://www.cynthiashaw.us)

[www.velvetdetermination.com](http://www.velvetdetermination.com)

FaceBook: @VelvetDetermination

Instagram: @CynthiaSings and @VelvetDetermination

Twitter: @CynthiaSings

EPK: <https://www.velvetdetermination.com/press-kit>

YouTube Promotional Video:

<https://tinyurl.com/VelvetDeterminationPromo>



Velvet Determination is perfect for:  
Theaters, PACs, Universities, Arts Festivals, Schools,  
Museums and Libraries - Appropriate for Ages 13 to 100+

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