

## Nellie McKay

### A GIRL NAMED BILL – The Life and Times of Billy Tipton

This is the true story of Billy Tipton, a jazz musician who lived as a man from the time she was 19 until "he" died at age 74 and was discovered to be female.

#### [Trailer](#)

**“One of the Best Concerts of 2014...**...this singer and pianist put on “A Girl Named Bill,” a revue-with-dialogue about Billy Tipton, the little-known midcentury jazz bandleader, who was assumed to be a man but was discovered at his death to be a woman. Under deceptively ragged humor and a wildly broad repertory illuminating various angles of the story — by Jelly Roll Morton, Yoko Ono, Cindy Walker and Ms. McKay herself — lay a devastating theme: how, and why, to live with secrets.” – **Ben Ratliff, *The New York Times***

"Her last two 'cabaret' shows I saw have been jaw-dropping. They both completely subverted the genre...Among Ms. McKay's charms, Mr. Byrne said, “are the ways she playfully mixes what he called a “tragic noir vibe” with her “wicked sense of humor.” - **David Byrne**

“Look under the frothy surface, and “A Girl Named Bill” is a serious exploration of stereotypes and gender identity role playing, all from a feminist perspective.” – **Stephen Holden, *The New York Times***

"...the artistic highlight of the summer... I have long suspected McKay of being a real genius and this engagement proved it in spades...her most lucid, comprehensive, and fully committed portrayal yet...the kind of empathy that only a true artist can muster.” – **David Noh, *Gay City News***