

Music ENTERTAINMENT

Alexa Ray Joel launches second Café Carlyle residency



Alexa Ray Joel has a residency of her own, at the Cafe Carlyle through March 7. Photo Credit: Getty Images / Coppola

Alexa Ray Joel launched her second residency at the Café Carlyle on Tuesday night, with a mix of new songs she had written and some unexpected choices from a few of her favorite songwriters.

No, her father's work wasn't included. But the presence of Billy Joel was certainly felt, as Alexa Ray Joel opened her hourlong set alone at the piano singing Randy Newman. The influence of mother Christie Brinkley, who was in attendance Tuesday night, was certainly clear as well in her fun, flirty banter with the crowd.

That her lineage is so evident is Joel's blessing as well as her curse. She tackled it head on in her reworking of "Let Me Entertain You" from "Gypsy" that included descriptions of her parents ("My mom's so freaking pretty") while also declaring her love of show biz.

And it's there where she stands out on her own. Her songs are disarmingly honest and charmingly self-aware. She talked about how "extremely self-critical" she can be, joking,

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“I’m the female Woody Allen of The Carlyle,” as she introduced her song “What the Hell Is Wrong With Me?”

She followed that with a touching ballad about the collapse of her first relationship, called “Sorry to Say.”

“I don’t want to depress you,” she said, adding, “If I’m too positive, it’ll seem a little contrived, no?”

Alexa Ray Joel plays the Café Carlyle, 35 E. 76th St., Manhattan, nightly through March 7, except Sundays and Mondays. Tickets are \$45-\$115 through TicketWeb, 866-777-8932, ticketweb.com.

