



**Carrying off 28 songs – Claire Sweeney in Tell Me On A Sunday**

CLAIRE SWEENEY may not be around on Sunday – but she's still got four nights at the Empire booked in her diary.

No mean feat when you consider she has to carry off 28 songs and emotion that boomerangs between misery and joy, all by herself.

Tell Me On a Sunday charts the dating misadventures of a single British woman in New York, and much of the plot – told entirely via song – is a superficial skate across territory very familiar to even the most casual student of Sex and the City

or Bridget Jones. Between tapping out missives home to Merseyside on a pink lap-top we catch our heroine in her apartment before and – sometimes squiffily – after dates with variously the younger man, the important man and, lastly, the married man.

It's hard not to compare the "script" with sassy one-liners from SATC or belly laughs evinced by the bumbling Bridget, but even 30 years after they were penned – and by a man at that – many lines hit their mark with startling

accuracy. Her singleton's state of waiting, wanting and hoping was completely skewered, as were her contradictory thoughts surrounding an affair.

Claire's best musical numbers were the bitter-sweet, almost savage songs. She sang a scorching version of Take That Look Off Your Face – Married Man was another belter – and helped rescue a stream of slow, sub-prime Webber songs by some poignant acting. Claire Sweeney gives this Big Apple musical a welcome bit of bite.

Emma Pinch