



KÖLN 75 - Monday, January 19, (2pm & 7.30pm), Hudson Village Theatre

KÖLN 75 tells the rousing and true story of the rebellious 18-year-old **Vera Brandes** (Mala Emde), who confidently and passionately puts everything on the line to make her dream a reality. In an era where teenagers were rarely taken seriously as business partners, Brandes acted with a grit that defied her age. Against the strict will of her conservative parents and the skepticism of the local establishment, she booked the prestigious **Cologne Opera House** at her own personal financial risk. Her mission was singular: to bring the temperamental jazz genius **Keith Jarrett** (John Magaro) to Cologne for a late-night concert in January 1975.

The Night Everything Almost Collapsed

The film captures the high-stakes drama of the hours leading up to the performance. Upon arrival, a sleep-deprived and back-pained Jarrett was horrified to find that the opera house had provided the wrong piano—a tinny, out-of-tune **Bösendorfer baby grand** instead of the full concert grand he had requested.

The improvisation nearly never happened; Jarrett initially refused to play, leaving the teenage Brandes to plead with him in the pouring rain. She didn't know it yet, but that struggle—the physical limitations of the "unplayable" piano and the artist's exhaustion—forced Jarrett to adapt his style, leaning into the lower registers and rhythmic ostinatos that would define the evening's haunting beauty.

An Unprecedented Legacy

The resulting performance was immortalized on record and is now considered one of the most significant works of art of the 20th century: "**The Köln Concert.**" Despite the technical hurdles, the recording captured a moment of pure, unrepeatable creative lightning.

With more than **four million copies sold** to date, the double album—instantly recognizable by its iconic, minimalist white cover—remains a cultural phenomenon. To this day, it holds the title of the **best-selling jazz solo album** and the **best-selling piano solo recording** of all time. It is a testament to the fact that sometimes, the greatest masterpieces are born from the brink of total failure and the unwavering vision of a young woman who refused to take "no" for an answer.