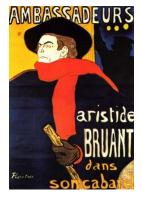


STOP 6 : Ambassadeurs: Aristide Bruant 1892 - Henri de TOULOUSE-LAUTREC



SFX: Muffled street sounds – to give the sense of Paris at night

Narrator

Just as Lautrec was commissioned by Jane Avril to promote her act, he applied his design skills to boost the fame of another close friend. Aristide Bruant – known as *the people's singer* – was a nightclub performer, renowned for his coarse songs, sung in street slang, which dealt with the hardships endured by the working classes. – These were the very criminals, drunks, whores and tramps who inhabited Montmartre. Here is Bruant, in an early recording, singing Dans la rue.

Music:Aristide Bruant singing, No 11 from *Music- Témoignages musicaux autour de Toulouse - Dans la rue*.m4a

Narrator

Lautrec created this poster to promote the singer's performances at the upscale café-concert Ambassadeurs in central Paris. He shows Bruant in his emblematic red scarf, black cape and hat. In the doorway behind is the shadowy figure of a Montmartre gangster – the sort of character celebrated in Bruant's tough street songs.

Thousands of copies of the poster were displayed across Paris, causing one journalist to complain:

Quote: Second voice

Who will deliver us from this image of Aristide Bruant? You can't take a step without finding yourself face to face with it.