

**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.*