

Judy Garland Quote Sheet

A Production of
Thirteen/WNET
New York for PBS



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Additional funding
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and Irving Laurie
Foundation

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The André and
Elizabeth Kertész
Foundation

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In Her Own Words

*Judy Garland's complex life and extraordinary career have been written about countless times. Yet her autobiography was never published. What remains of Garland's story, told in her own words, are tapes she made in preparation for her book. Portions of those tapes, as well as excerpts from numerous interviews conducted with Garland over her lifetime, will be included in **AMERICAN MASTERS Judy Garland: By Myself**, a co-production with Turner Entertainment that airs February 25, 2004 at 9 p.m. (ET) on PBS (check local listings). Below are excerpts of some of those interviews:*

On Being Judy Garland

Do you realize how many people have talked about me, written about me, imitated me, told my children that they know me, they know Judy Garland. I honestly don't know why I've been made the victim of so many untruths. Well, it's high time to stop the trolley ride, because I, Judy Garland, am gonna talk. And everybody better just sit on the bench and watch the ball game.

On Childhood

From the day I was born, my mother always took great delight in telling rooms full of people how she did everything to get rid of me, she must have rolled down 19,000 flights of stairs, jumped off tables, and for some reason I was a very stubborn child, and was not about to be shaken loose. So when it became too cumbersome for her to roll down any more stairs, when she was eight-and-a-half months pregnant, she more or less became resolved because she knew that she was going to have a little boy. Having had two daughters she thought, well it's the only way she could possibly accept this ghastly thing that had happened was that she have a son.

The reason I can remember so many of these things in such a short space of time and so early in my life, was it was the only tranquil, happy time my family and I ever had [during her childhood in Grand Rapids]. Anyway, for such a mixed up life later, it started out beautifully, you know.

On Public Life

My life, my career has been like a roller coaster. I'm either an enormous success or just a down-and-out failure, which is silly, you know, because everyone always asks me: "How does it feel to make a comeback?" And I don't know where I've been. I haven't been away. I've been working all the time. Every time I go to the powder room I have to make a

-more-

comeback.

On Her Health

My liver was fine. My blood was fine. My heart was fine. And just everything was great. The only thing was that I was a nervous wreck and was suffering terrific malnutrition and fatigue. We came to the last test and they said, "We're going to take an electroencephalogram to record if there is a tumor or any kind of growth or anything like that in the brain." And I thought, "Oh my God, I passed all the tests, now they're going to record my brain, and they'll get down on paper my thoughts and I'm a dead pigeon because they'll never let me out of here."

I think my only anger is that it's just been such damn foolishness about the difficulties. I've been working for 43 years. Now, if I were as difficult or as ill, I wouldn't have been able to be working for 43 years. So I think it's time to put a stop to that.

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