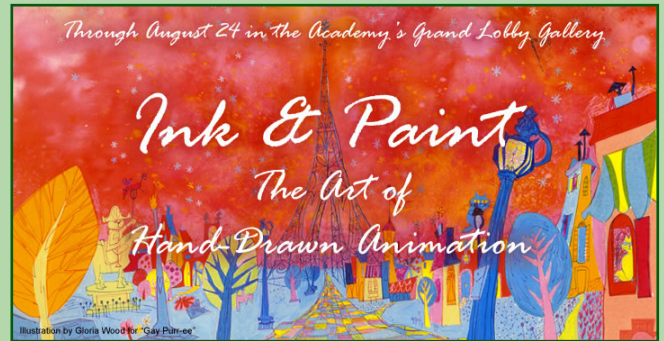


# The Judy Room

2008 Year In Review

## 2008: A YEAR OF VARIETY

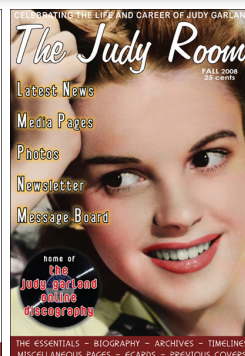
In 2008 our world of "Judy Fandom" experienced a wide variety of products, events, and celebrations. Along with some wonderful CD, DVD and print releases, we were treated to some great events, like the high-tech "Judy Garland In Concert" which successfully showcased Judy "live" in concert. Warner Home Video announced their first-ever 6k resolution restoration - and they chose *A Star Is Born!* Vincente Minnelli's childhood home received a commemorative marker. The off-Broadway show "Judy and Me" received glowing reviews. The artwork to Judy's 1962 animated film *Gay Purr-ee* (she was the voice of the main character, "Mewsette") was featured in a special exhibition by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. The Judy Garland Festival in Grand Rapids, Minnesota was again a success. And the 2009 70th anniversary of *The Wizard of Oz* began early with commemorative stamps and noted designers creating their own interpretations of the famed



*Ruby Slippers*, all for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS foundation - something Judy herself probably would have supported had she lived.



The following pages feature the highlights of the year, plus what's to come (that I know of so far) for 2009. It's a testament to Judy's talent and genius that here we are almost 40 years past her death, and she's still making news, and still having an impact on the world of entertainment. I hope you enjoy this year's Year In Review, and I thank you for your continued support.







**Disc 1 (movie & studio performances)**

Blue Butterfly  
Hang On To A Rainbow  
Stompin' At The Savoy  
Over The Rainbow  
I'm Just Wild About Harry  
But Not For Me  
Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas  
On The Atchison, Topeka And The Santa Fe  
Who? Till The Clouds Roll By  
You Can Do No Wrong  
I Wish I Were In Love Again  
Better Luck Next Time  
Get Happy  
Send My Baby Back To Me  
Heartbroken  
Without A Memory  
Go Home, Joe  
The Man That Got Away  
Judy At The Palace  
Memories Of You

**Disc 2 (radio performances)**

Broadway Rhythm  
Zing! Went The Strings Of My Heart  
On Revival Day  
Smiles  
My Heart Is Taking Lessons  
On The Bumpy Road To Love  
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot  
Goody Goodbye  
In Spain They Say "Si-Si"  
Love's New Sweet Song  
The Things I Love  
Daddy  
Minnie From Trinidad  
That Old Black Magic  
Over The Rainbow  
Embraceable You/The Man I Love  
Somebody Loves Me  
Someone To Watch Over Me  
Love  
You And I

For more information, check out:  
[www.JudyGarlandDiscography.com](http://www.JudyGarlandDiscography.com)

Release Date: May 5, 2008  
Label: Fréméaux & Associés (France)  
No. FA 5184  
Length: 1 hour; 51 minutes; 50 seconds

This fantastic 2-CD compilation is the best Garland CD release of the year.

What's great about this release, aside from the stellar packaging and audio restorations, is the fact that it covers almost all aspects of Judy's career. Two of Judy's early Vitaphone film recordings are presented in their entirety for the first time, and we now have 5 MGM Records versions of film performances and the Columbia Records version of "The Man That Got Away", all beautifully restored in crisp, clear mono sound.

Additionally, the 4 other tracks that Judy recorded for Columbia in 1953 are presented in a new "surround sound" remastering by the late Robert Parker. Some people may feel that his process adds too much echo, but that's entirely up to the listener.

The main caveat of this set is the second CD which is devoted to rare Garland radio performances. Judy's radio years have always been under represented on CD, the few CDs released are either now out of print, hard to find, or of such poor sound quality that they're not worth it. But this CD is the exception. A stellar disc!

**NOTE:** The soundtrack recordings on this set are remastered from the original 78 discs released by MGM Records, Columbia Records, and Vitaphone. Likewise, the Decca and Capitol studio recordings are also taken from the originally released records.

**A few highlights:**

"Blue Butterfly" is the complete version. It was previously released in a slightly edited down version that featured just Judy's vocal, on the 1998 CD set "Judy".

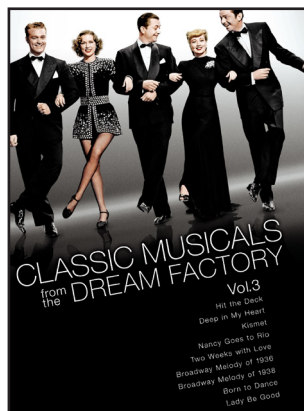
"Love's New Sweet Song" is the first time a song written by Judy herself (she wrote the words, husband David Rose composed the music) has ever been released.

The song "You And I" heard here is not the song that was featured in Judy's film *Meet Me In St. Louis* (MGM 1944), but rather a newer song with the same title composed by Meredith Wilson (of "The Music Man" fame).

The radio version of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" is from an MGM radio promotion disc for *Everybody Sing* in 1938. These discs commonly used MGM pre-recordings of songs from the films they were promoting, and were sent out to the various radio stations with instructions to destroy them after playing. This particular version is the first time the MGM prerecording of this song is made available.

The liner notes by Lawrence Schulman are, as usual, well written and bring a fresh perspective to Judy's life and career.

This is a must have. A nice overview of Judy's career from 1929 through 1956.



**The Broadway Melody of 1938** first time on DVD! Sold separately and as part of the 9 movie boxed set "Classic Musicals from the Dream Factory - Volume 3". *Melody* is the only Garland film in the set, and includes audio-only pre-recording sessions and outtakes, radio shows and promos, film shorts, and the theatrical trailer. This is Judy's second feature film, her first for MGM. She steals it away from such stars as Robert Taylor, Eleanor Powell and Sophie Tucker. Her rendition of "(Dear Mr. Gable) You Made Me Love You" became an instant classic and put her firmly on the road to superstardom!

The other films in this set are: *Broadway Melody of 1936*; *Born To Dance*; *Lady Be Good*; *Hit The Deck*; *Deep In My Heart*; *Kismet*; *Nancy Goes To Rio* & *Two Weeks With Love*.

Release Date: April 8, 2008  
Warner Home Video

On May 13th, WHV also released a re-packaged DVD of *Till The Clouds Roll By* (1947), as part of their Frank Sinatra collection, this time Judy is front and center on the cover! We like this cover better!



# GARLAND at the GROVE

At last! Finally on CD! Gloriously remastered to perfection. "Garland At The Grove" never sounded so good!



Recorded August 5, 1958 at the Coconut Grove in the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, CA - with Freddy Martin and his Orchestra. By the time this was recorded, Judy's voice was suffering severe fatigue. If Capitol had recorded the opening night's performance on July 23, 1958 it would have made for a better representation of Judy's performance at the Grove, which garnered rave reviews.

That being said, this CD release presents the concert complete for the first time, in excellent digital sound remixed from the 3-track master tapes. This concert has never sounded better! Judy's performance also comes across in a better light than on the album. This is due to the remastering, as well as the addition of the songs omitted from the original LP. DRG Records has done it again in presenting another stellar release - gorgeously remastered - of another previously unreleased Garland Capitol Records album. In 2007 they gave us the premier release of Judy's "The Letter" - again remastered and sounding amazing!



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For the record, two of the three tracks not included on the LP ("Day In, Day Out" and "I Can't Give You Anything But Love") were first included in Capitol's 1991 boxed set "The One And Only". The 2002 compilation "Classic Judy Garland - The Capitol Years: 1955 - 1965" presented a five song representation of the concert, including the above mentioned two outtakes, and adding the previously unreleased "Do It Again". Also, the "Garland Overture" was edited on the LP but released in its entirety on the 1991 boxed set "The One And Only".

Release Date: March 4, 2009

Label: DRG Records, Inc./EMI Music Special Products

## A STAR IS BORN RESTORATION

On May 23rd the Hollywood Reporter featured a front-page article first announcing Warner Home Video's first ever "6k" film restoration would be applied to Judy's 1954 masterpiece *A Star Is Born*! To be completed in 2009.

From the article: "Digital film restoration is most commonly accomplished at 2K, though an increasing number have been using 4K. A 4K file contains four times as much picture information -- measured in pixels -- as a 2K file, and 6K contains 2 1/4 times as much as a 4K file."

It's also scheduled for DVD and Blu-Ray release in 2009. This restoration promises to be the ultimate edition of the film, and I have hopes that part of the catalyst in the decision to choose *A Star Is Born* for this very time consuming, not to mention expensive, restoration process is that perhaps more of the missing footage has been found. We'll find out sometime in 2009. Whether I'm right or wrong, at the very least we'll all benefit from a shiny new edition of the film!



[Photo of ASIB during color correction process from HomeTheaterForum.com]







Shoes designed by (L-R): Stuart Weitzman; Oscar de la Renta; Adrian; Mochino; Alberta Ferretti; Betsy Johnson



The 2009 70th anniversary of *The Wizard of Oz* began ramping up my mid-2008. First up was the announcement by Warner Bros. and the Swarovski Crystal Company that they had tapped major designers to create their own pairs of shoes inspired by Dorothy's Ruby Slippers. The shoes were unveiled at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York City on September 4, 2008 - to help kick off New York's "Fashion Week" (see above), along side the original "Arabian Test Pair" created by Adrian for the film but never used (see above). The



collection will be auctioned in the Fall 2009 with the proceeds benefiting the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. In conjunction with this, and also benefiting the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation was a set of stamps commemorating the anniversary and featuring the anniversary logo plus the designer's sketches of their shoes (see below). Considering how much Judy cared about children's charities, I'm sure she would have been thrilled by all of this!

Madame Alexander created special dolls for sale at McDonald's (see right), and we've already seen many new ornaments, calendars, and other various items of all shapes and formats for the anniversary - with more to come I'm sure! It will be quite the year for OZ collectors worldwide!



Warner Home Video has announced that OZ will get its premiere Blu-Ray release in 2009 as well as a new anniversary edition of the standard DVD., and Amazon.com has posted what looks like the preliminary artwork for the Blu-Ray edition (above right).

I hope that Rhino Records will release a new, sonically upgraded version of their 1995 "Deluxe" edition of the OZ soundtrack. It's long overdue for a new release, with improved sound quality!



## JUDY GARLAND IN CONCERT!



On June 28th & 29th, "Running Subway" & "EMI Music Publishing" brought together Judy's voice (mainly from Capitol recordings), her live performances (mainly from her TV series), and the Boston Pops Orchestra for a one-of-a-kind live experience. The show was a big success, and thanks to today's technology audiences were given an idea of what it must have been like to see Judy in concert. A subsequent performance in Salt Lake City was also a success. We hope that this unique presentation of Judy's amazing artistry will be able to tour the major cities utilizing their symphony orchestras.

From the press release: "*Judy Garland In Concert* uses cutting-edge technology to present the sights and sounds of Judy performing her greatest hits. Audiences will experience Judy's singular stage presence accompanied by a live orchestra performing the classic arrangements that have thrilled millions worldwide. Multiple screens above the stage will incorporate rare home movies, photographs and the star's own reminiscences to create a magical evening of unique entertainment spanning her entire life and career."



For more info go to: [www.JudyGarlandInConcert.com](http://www.JudyGarlandInConcert.com)

## JUDY TAKES BROADWAY!

Garland fans everywhere were thrilled when notices made the rounds that "Judy Takes Broadway" was being released – thinking it was the long awaited re-release 1962 Capitol Records Manhattan Center recordings. Instead, it's the 2008 entry in the Savoy Jazz series of CD compilations taken from Judy's TV Series performances, this time standing in for the still out of print Capitol album. As the title says, it's Judy performing Broadway hits (as only she could!), with help from Vic Damone, Mel Tormé and Steve Allen. All 11 of the tracks make their "official" debut here (several had previously appeared on bootleg albums and tapes).

I could complain about this being another very short in length CD, but that would only generate more "nasty-grams" from the CD's compiler and author, John Fricke. However, since I'm still getting flack from my comments two years ago about their "Greatest Hits Live!" CD, I went back to that "Year In Review", and I apologize to everyone at Savoy Jazz. Those comments were incorrectly written. I meant to say that CD was the exception to their other releases which, like this new one, are consistently no more than an average of 42 to 63 minutes "long". In spite of my personal opinion, what most of these releases lack in length, they more than make up for in presentation. They're all packaged beautifully, with great liner notes and what seems to be an increase in the quality of the sound mastering with each release.

Release Date: May 20, 2008 – No. SVY 17693

### Tracks:

Sail Away (from Sail Away)  
Get Me To The Church On Time (from My Fair Lady)  
Sophie Medley – with Steve Allen (from Sophie – un produced)  
Hey, Look Me Over! (from Wildcat)  
Never Will I Marry (from Greenwillow)  
Why Can't I? (from Spring Is Here)  
Kismet Medley – with Vic Damone (from Kismet)  
Joey, Joey, Joey (from The Most Happy Fella)  
Some People (from Gypsy)  
The Party's Over – with Mel Tormé (from Bells Are Ringing)  
Encore: Here's To Us (from Little Me)

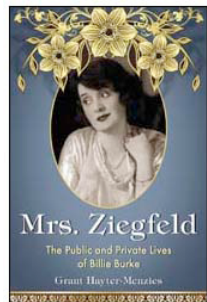


## ALSO IN 2009

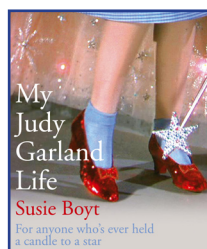
Two new Savoy Jazz releases are scheduled: "Love Songs" has already been released, featuring a line-up of 12 tracks from Judy's TV series, all are as the title suggests, songs of love, all solos. Another CD is set for release around the anniversary of Judy's birth (and death) in June 2009. No details yet on the contents of that release.

A new biography on Billie Burke is set for release. Billie was "Glinda, the Witch of the North" as well as Judy's mom in the zany 1938 musical *Everybody Sing*. Prior to her years at MGM, Billie was Florenz Ziegfeld's wife and a great beauty of the New York stage. This is sure to be a wonderful and educational biography!

On DVD: *MGM When The Lion Roars* - the amazing 1992 documentary first aired on the Turner Network Television cable station. Narrated by Patrick Stewart, this documentary is not to be missed! It's the history of the golden years of the MGM Studios and it's subsequent demise.

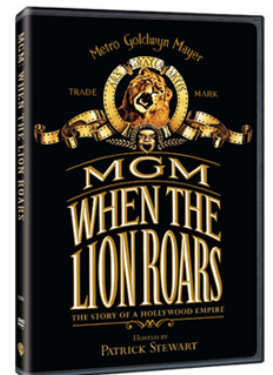


A book is being worked on right now about the famous (and now long gone) backlot of MGM. It might be done in 2009. It will definitely feature the "St. Louis Street" built for Judy's 1944 *Meet Me In St. Louis*.



Warner Home Video has initiated a "TCM Spotlight Collection" series, and the hope is that we see an Andy Hardy series, and maybe a "Judy Garland Collection Vol 2". To date, the only Garland films missing on DVD are: *Thoroughbreds Don't Cry*, *Everybody Sing*, *Listen Darling*, *Little Nellie Kelly*, *Thousands Cheer*, *Andy Hardy Meets Debutante*, and *Life Begins For Andy Hardy*.

Susie Boyt's book "My Judy Garland Life" was published in England on October 2, 2008 and is set for its U.S. publication on April 28, 2009. The book has received raves from everyone who's read it and it's sure to be the talk of "Judy Fandom" throughout the year.



## FINALLY - 2009 is the TENTH ANNIVERSARY of THE JUDY ROOM!

It's amazing to me that it's already been 10 years. This anniversary wouldn't have been possible without the help of so many people who have contributed so much, including photos, recordings, gifts, data, and advice. I can't thank everyone enough. Here's to at another 10+ years!!!