

THE JUDY ROOM

2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

MORE GREAT EVENTS IN 2006!

2006 was another year of great events, new releases, and accolades for and about Judy Garland's great talent and body of work.

The biggest news for this past year was the discovery of two of the lost Decca recordings that Judy made in 1935. Thought to be lost forever, these recordings were transferred to digital format and put up for auction (see following page for details).

The other big news for the year would have to be the highly successful release of the Judy Garland stamp on what would have been Judy's 84th birthday, June 10, 2006 (see following page for details)

June 2006 could well be remembered as the best "Judy Garland Month" ever! We had the stamp release, two new CDs, over 10 DVDs, the Judy Garland Festival in Minnesota, and more!

Plus, *The Judy Room* has a new look! Beginning in Summer 2006, I began making "vintage magazine covers" the theme of the homepage (see the thumbnails below). These covers reflect the change in seasons and special events or holidays while also fondly looking back to golden age of fan magazines. A BIG THANK YOU to "Alex in Belgium" for his masterful photo colorization.

I would like to extend a special thanks and appreciation to Eric Hemphill, Scott Schechter, "tinman", Donald, and everyone else who has helped to make *The Judy Room* a success. I hope you all know that I couldn't do this without you. THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

Scott Brogan
The Judy Room



...IN THE NEWS...

JANUARY 12, 2006: The Recording Industry Association Of America (RIAA) announces their Grammy Hall Of Fame inductees, and the 1956 M-G-M Records soundtrack to *The Wizard Of Oz* is included. Just last year we saw the induction of Judy's 1944 Decca Cast Album" of the songs from *Meet Me In St. Louis*. Prior to that, Judy's Decca version of "Over The Rainbow" was inducted in 1981, and her album "Judy At Carnegie Hall" was inducted in 1998.

JUNE 2006: Warner Home Video conducts another one of their "DVD Decision" Campaigns. *Presenting Lily Mars* is the only Garland film on the list and is one of the winners announced in August! The film is released on DVD December 19, 2006.

JUNE 5, 2006: Turner Classic Movies begins their month long Monday night tributes to "Leading Ladies". This celebration of the 50 most unforgettable actresses of the studio era includes Judy as part of the line-up, as well as being featured in the accompanying book and DVD boxed set (see last page).

JUNE 14 & 15, 2006: At Carnegie Hall in New York City, pop singer Rufus Wainwright "recreates" Judy's legendary 1961 concert. Rufus is assisted by his mother, sister, and Judy's own daughter Lorna Luft.

JUNE 15, 2006: The American Film Institute announces the results of their "100 Years 100 Cheers" poll for the most inspiring films of all time. *The Wizard Of Oz* makes the list at #26.

JUNE 15, 2006: Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty & Lt. Governor Carol Molnau approved a special resolution giving Judy Garland an honorary day: "We recognize the Judy Garland Museum in and Grand Rapids, Minnesota as the birthplace home of Judy Garland and congratulate Judy's surviving children as heirs to a great American and Minnesota legend, thus we proudly proclaim June 22, 2006 as the official celebration of the life and times of the child, the woman, the lady and legend, "Miss Show Business," Judy Garland."

JUNE 22, 2006: Christie's Auction House in New York auctions off a block of Garland memorabilia, including her green "Better Luck Next Time" dress from *Easter Parade*. No word on the winning bid or bidder.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2006: The American Film Institute announces the results of their poll for the 25 greatest film musicals of all time. Most of Judy's films were in the list of 180 nominated films and in the end, Judy had more films in the top 10 than any other single star: *The Wizard Of Oz* (#3); *A Star Is Born* (#7); & *Meet Me In St. Louis* (#10).

OCTOBER 31, 2006 - NOVEMBER 01, 2006: Christies auctions off a signed Warhol screen print of his famous Blackglama ad (see image above right). The winning bid was \$18,000.

NOVEMBER 5, 2006: This is the 50th anniversary of the original airing of *The Wizard Of Oz* on CBS. The annual showing became a television landmark and event anticipated in households across North America. The impact of these yearly showings was such that in 1998 a Gallup Poll reported that 94 percent of 1,016 Americans had seen the film.



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LOST GARLAND RECORDINGS FOUND

IT'S BEEN A GREAT YEAR FOR GARLAND AUDIOPHILES!

Two of the long lost Decca test recordings that Judy made when she was only 12 years old surfaced and were put up for auction. These are the first recordings Judy Garland ever made in a recording studio and are the only known recordings of Judy singing with her mother at the piano. Prior to these, the only known Garland recordings were the live-on-set recordings made in 1929 when Judy, as "Baby Gumm", and her sisters filmed a series of film shorts for Vitaphone.

ABOUT THE RECORDINGS

Whatever the fate of the discs turns out to be, the MOST IMPORTANT fact is that the recordings themselves have been preserved and I trust will eventually be made public. If it wasn't for this family taking care of these discs for the past 40 years, they wouldn't exist at all! I was lucky enough to have a private "listen" to the CD of the recordings. Judy is a revelation. Her natural talents were in place long before M-G-M "shaped" her voice - it was ALL THERE: The richness, power, and that soon-to-be famous vibrato with the vulnerability just below the surface. Judy starts "Bill" sounding like she's 30 years old. Half-way through she begins talking (as she would later in songs like "Dear Mr. Gable") suddenly sounding like a 12 year old ("Aw Bill, you're MY Bill..."). When she begins singing again, she again sounds 30!

The big revelation in both of these recordings is that Judy was already effectively performing those vocal "jazz/swing riffs" that M-G-M would later include in some of her early performances for the studio. She performs these vocal acrobatics perfectly. When listening, it's clear that Judy was trained in Vaudeville. She's really "selling" the songs. But her years in Vaudeville paid off, because although she's "selling" the songs she never once goes overboard. There is an excitement in her voice, an obvious joy in performing. At the end of "The Medley" she lets loose and really punches the end of "Dinah" in an almost Jolson-way. Incredible. It's clear that Ethel had Judy on the right track. All M-G-M had to do was polish her slight "tongue on the roof of the mouth" lisp that is slightly evident in a few parts of the recordings - that's it! These are true gems that will, I'm sure, eventually be released to the public.

ALSO AUCTIONED:
A corset thought to be from *Annie Get Your Gun* (1949) (sold for \$359); lobby cards from *A Child Is Waiting* (1963) (sold for \$12); bloomers from *Summer Stock* (1950) (sold for \$508); a signed copy of "Show Business Illustrated" (1961) (sold for \$598); and a 1972 oil painting (sold for \$120) (all items shown here).

THE AUCTION

The discs stayed with the family of the current owners from their discovery in 1960 to the present. Thanks to the Internet, in 2004 the family contacted *The Judy Room* and I urged them to have the discs transferred to digital format ASAP! They did, and I put them in contact with my friend and associate Scott Schechter who tried to get Decca Records (Universal) and Capitol Records interested. Both companies ultimately passed so the owners chose the auction house of Bonhams & Butterfields to sell the discs along with a CD of the recordings. The discs were auctioned with other Garland items as part of Bonhams' "Entertainment Memorabilia including Animation Art" auction in Los Angeles, California, December 17, 2006. At approximately 10:30 am the discs went on the auction block starting with a minimum bid of \$15k. The high bid was \$22,500. This was below the "reserve price" of \$30k meaning that the discs ultimately did not sell. Finally, on that same day, there was some behind-the-scenes activity regarding true ownership of the discs. Now it is unclear what the final fate of these discs will be.



HISTORY OF THE RECORDINGS

On March 29, 1935, Judy Garland and her sisters (Virginia & Mary Jane), known professionally as "The Garland Sisters", recorded several tests for Decca Records. The recording session took place at the Recordings Incorporated Studios at 5505 Melrose in Hollywood, California. Judy's mom, Ethel Gumm, accompanied the girls on the piano.

"The Garland Sisters" recorded "Moonglow", and Frances (Judy) Garland recorded "Bill", the Hammerstein/Kern song from "Show Boat" that was identified with torch singer Helen Morgan. Frances also recorded a medley consisting of "On The Good Ship Lollipop/Object Of My Affection/Dinah". "Bill" was given a master number of "DLA 158" and the "Medley" was given a master number of "DLA 159". It's likely that "Moonglow" was given the master number "DLA 157", but this record is still thought to be lost so we can only speculate that it was most likely recorded first.

At the time, Judy performed "Bill" on stage seated on a piano (as the song's originator Helen Morgan did) with just a spot framing her face. At the end of the song the lights would come up, and audiences would applaud and cheer in amazement that this woman's voice came out of such a young girl. See the photo above, taken during a working trip to the Chicago World's Fair in July of 1934 - Judy is posing as she performed the number.

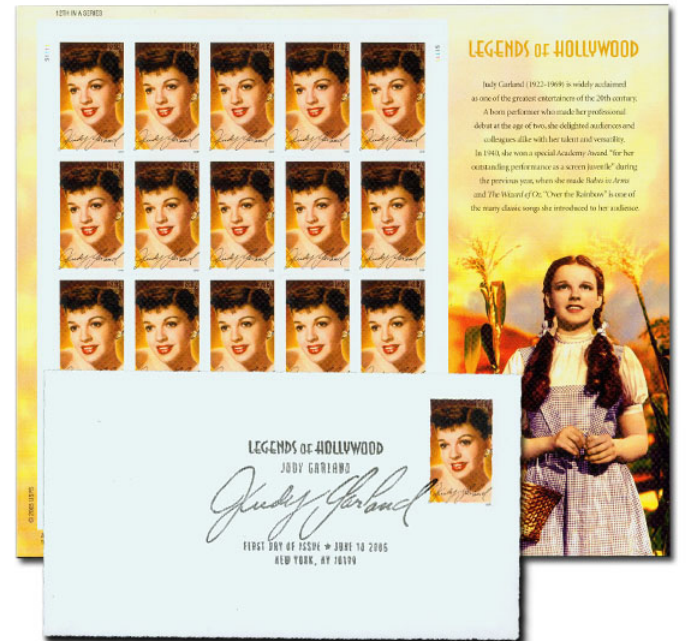
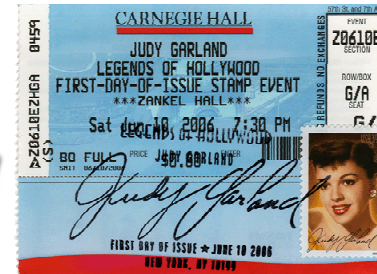
A contract with Decca never materialized and Judy would not make another studio recording until a second "audition" session for Decca on November 27, 1935 just a few months after she signed a standard studio contract with M-G-M Studios. This second audition was a "tag" on the end of a recording session that Decca musical director Victor Young was conducting for Johnny Mercer and Ginger Rogers. Young was the orchestra leader for "The Shell Chateau Hour" on NBC Radio where Judy was enjoying great success. Young liked Judy and arranged for this second audition, conducting as Judy sang "All's Well (Down In Coronado By The Sea)" and "No Other One". Unfortunately, these discs were "kept on file" until around 1942, when it's thought that they were lost as part of the wartime metal scrap drives. But, the first tests that have been discovered, so who knows?

These two surviving discs ("Bill" and "The Medley") were retrieved in 1960 from a trash heap outside of Judy's recently vacated home in Beverly Hills. They were obviously Judy's personal copies. Upon close inspection of the labels and the discs themselves, it's apparent that they are either the originals pressed that day, or copies made at the same time. Judy may well have been given these as "demos" (much like artist today have demo CDs) to keep and possibly use if she were to go to another record company or more likely a Hollywood studio. If they were pressings made years later and given to Judy, they certainly would not have the "Recordings Incorporated" label but rather a hand written plain label similar to a record Judy gave to Arthur Freed in the late 1940's.

THE OFFICIAL JUDY GARLAND STAMP

RELEASED BY THE U.S.P.S. ON JUNE 10, 2006 AT CARNEGIE HALL, NEW YORK CITY

On June 10, 2006 at Carnegie Hall in New York City, the United States Post Office unveiled its first ever Judy Garland stamp. The stamp went on sale nationwide the following day as the 12th entry in their "Legends of Hollywood" series. The gorgeous portrait of Judy, based on a publicity photo for 1954's *A Star Is Born*, was painted by Tim O'Brien. The design of the stamp, which includes a reproduction of Judy's signature, was by USPS art director Ethel Kessler. The photo on the "slevage" (image at right) features the famous M-G-M publicity photo of Judy as "Dorothy" in 1939's *The Wizard of Oz*.



FINALLY ON DVD

JUDY'S MOST CHARMING FILM!

Presenting **LILY MARS**



Warner Home Video
Released December 19, 2006

Judy Garland fans' most requested title finally arrived on DVD December 19, 2006. *Presenting Lily Mars* may not be Judy's most well known film, but to Garland fans everywhere it's one of her best. And why not? *Presenting Lily Mars* is a charming film that features Judy singing, dancing, showing her unique flair for comedy, and looking gorgeous throughout! This 1943 film is the first time M-G-M presented Judy as a glamorous adult - just check out that "Broadway Rhythm" finale!

The DVD extras include: An audio-only outtake of the deleted finale "Paging Mr. Greenback"; An audio-only version of the 'long, later re-edited finale' finale "Where There's Music"; The final edited release version of that finale in stereo; and two 1943 M-G-M shorts: "Heavenly Music" and the Tex Avery cartoon "Who Killed Who?"

MORE GARLAND ON DVD!

JUDY WAS ALL OVER THE DVD MARKET IN 2006!

CLASSIC MUSICALS FROM THE DREAM FACTORY

Warner Home Video boxed set, including the DVD premiers of *Ziegfeld Follies* (1946); *Till The Clouds Roll By* (1946); and *Summer Stock* (1950). Release Date: April 25, 2006.

LEADING LADIES OF THE STUDIO ERA

Another Warner Home Video boxed set, tied in with the Robert Osborne & Molly Haskell book "Leading Ladies: The 50 Most Unforgettable Actresses of The Studio Era". The set features 5 actresses, including Judy in *For Me And My Gal* (1942). Originally released in 2004, *Gal* is repackaged in the sturdier "clamshell" casing. Release date: August 29, 2006.

THE JUDY GARLAND SHOW

Throughout the winter and spring of 2006, Geneon released 5 new single DVD editions of "The Judy Garland Show", finally completing the release of all of the shows on single disc DVD.

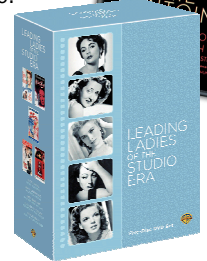
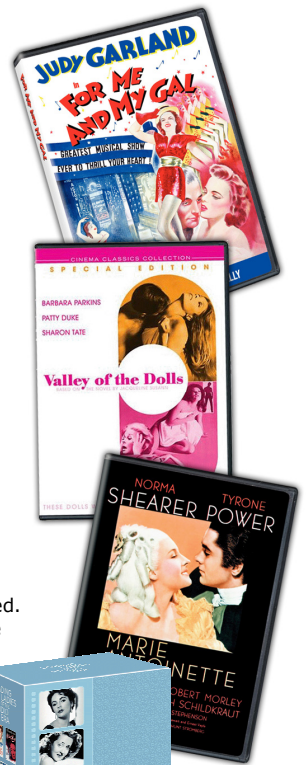
MARIE ANTOINETTE

No, Judy doesn't end up at the guillotine! This DVD includes the 1938 short "Hollywood Goes To Town" from the *Another Romance Of Celluloid* series, featuring stars arriving at the premiere of the film. Judy is seen briefly with Freddie Bartholomew as they stop and sign the guest book. The DVD is also part of the "Motion Picture Masterpieces Collection" boxed set.

Release date: October 10, 2006.

VALLEY OF THE DOLLS

The 1967 cult classic finally makes it to DVD, but Judy's outtake of "I'll Plant My Own Tree" is not included. 20th Century-Fox promised many great extras, but only Judy's costume test footage as featured in the documentary "Hollywood Backstories: Valley Of The Dolls" makes it. Release date: June 13, 2006.



MORE AUDIO...

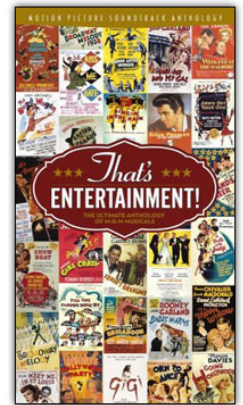
As if the 1935 records weren't enough, 2006 also saw the release of three more previously unreleased recordings:

"Buds Won't Bud": Only the first half was thought to have survived from the March 14, 1940 M-G-M prerecording sessions for Andy Hardy Meets Debutante. Luckily the complete version was found and released on the updated Rhino 6-CD boxed set "That's Entertainment!" released April 25, 2006.

"It Never Was You": Judy sang the song live on-set for the 1962 film *I Could Go On Singing*. However, a never-before-heard studio version recorded May 9, 1962 was found and released on June 27, 2006 as part of the Capitol CD "The Essential Judy Garland".

"Why Was I Born?": Also included on the Capitol CD is this alternate take recorded August 3, 1960 during the now famous 1960 "London Sessions".

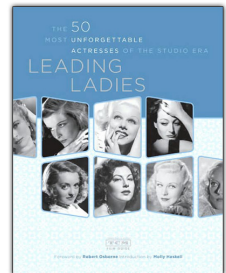
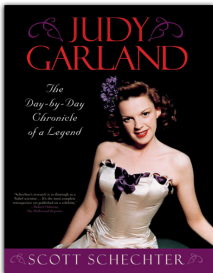
PLUS "Great Day! Rare Recordings From The Judy Garland Show": Another compilation CD of mostly new-to-CD performances was released by Savoy Jazz.



NEW IN PAPERBACK

Originally released in 2001, Scott Schechter's wonderfully detailed chronicle of Judy's life and career "Judy Garland: The Day-by-Day Chronicle of a Legend" is now available in paperback. In my opinion, this is the greatest reference book out there about Judy's life and above all, career. Practically everything Judy did is included. And as Scott says in the forward "The lady WORKED!!". A must-have for all Garland collectors.

Also released, as noted above, was the Robert Osborne/Molly Haskell book "Leading Ladies: The 50 Most Unforgettable Actresses of the Studio Era". Of course Judy is one of the 50!



COMING IN 2007



The long-awaited DVD debut of *The Clock* (1945) from Warner Home Video. This single DVD is set for release on February 6th. Extras include the Lux Radio Theater version of the film.

On March 13 "The Letter" makes its CD debut courtesy of DRG Records. Also included will be FOUR bonus tracks: The 45rpm EP (Extended Play) radio promo versions of "The Worst Kind Of Man", "The Red Balloon"; "That's All There Is, There Isn't Anymore"; & "Beautiful Trouble".

There is also talk that the Mickey-Judy musicals may be released on DVD in 2007 as a boxed set, as well as *The Pirate* (1948).

Whatever the case, 2007 is sure to bring more great Garland releases and events!

