

THE
**GINGER
ROGERS**
SHOW



starring
**GINGER
ROGERS**

May 17 thru May 29, 1977



PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

The State Theatre of New Jersey

MILLBURN, NEW JERSEY

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

ANGELO DEL ROSSI, Executive Producer

presents

THE GINGER ROGERS SHOW

starring

GINGER ROGERS

Directed by

ONNA WHITE

Music Conducted by

HAL BORNE

Featuring

MICHAEL CODY

JEFF PARKER

RON STEINBECK

JIM TAYLOR

and

CHRISTIE WESTMORELAND

Guest Star

RICK PODELL

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ACT I

Overture

Charleston Contest

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You Are the Sunshine of My Life/Mon Cherie Amore

Highland Fling

Rick Podell

Change Partners and Dance

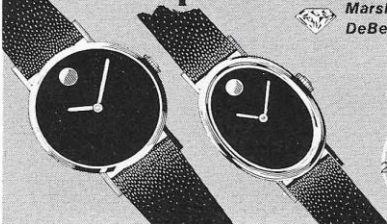
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ACT II

Entr'acte

Love Will Keep Us Together

*Embraceable You/But Not for Me/Hello Dolly/
Walked Into My Life*

Film Segment . . . *Kitty Foyle*

Ginger's Movie Medley

I Won't Dance

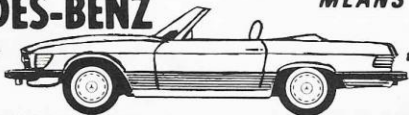
*Lovely to Look At/Cheek to Cheek/Continental/
Swing Waltz*

Finale . . . *Carioca*

Goodnight Song . . . *After You've Gone*

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THE "LEGEND" OF GINGER ROGERS

The legendary **Ginger Rogers** has recently started on a new phase of her already diversified career. The star of some 73 films, ten of which as half of the famed team of **Astaire and Rogers**, is now wowing SRO audiences across the country as a nightclub performer. If her past success is any indication of her present and future, all we need say is, "Watch out! Here comes Ginger!"

Ginger Rogers was born Virginia Katherine McMath in Independence, Missouri. Her nickname, "Ginger," progressed from a young cousin's inability to pronounce "Virginia," the

result being "Ginja," which family and friends continued to call her until theatre men, understanding the name to be "Ginger," billed her as such on their marquees.

It has been said by home town folks that "Ginger danced before she could walk." At the age of ten she was appearing at all the local charity shows, celebrations and lodge meetings with her stepfather, "Daddy John," whose last name, Rogers, she borrowed.

At the age of 14, young Ginger won the Texas State Charleston contest. The prize, four weeks of appearances

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in four Texas cities in the Interstate Circuit Theatres, provided her with her own act to tour the circuit. She chose two red-headed Charleston dancers and the act, billed "**Ginger and the Redheads,**" continued well beyond its four-week engagement when Junior Orpheum sent the trio on an extensive tour across the western U.S.

When the show reached Chicago, a famous vaudeville act stole the Red-heads and Ginger found herself doing a single for the Skouras Brothers at their Ambassador Theatre in St. Louis. She continued for 28 weeks, with a new act each week, using the Master of Ceremonies as her straight man.

Ginger left St. Louis for Chicago and the Oriental Theatre when she was invited to appear with Paul Ash and his band. After some 14 weeks with Ash, Paramount Publix took her to New York to play Broadway's Paramount Theatre and to prepare a stage show for her to tour in their theatres across the country. Ginger began with the show, but her routines with the Masters of Ceremonies were so successful, she was held over for several weeks and the touring show went on without her. The Paramount Theatre

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subsequently brought Paul Ash to New York and invited Ginger back to join them.

Ginger's first Broadway musical was "**Top Speed**," in which she was featured in the ingenue role. Although the show, which opened Christmas Day, 1929, ran for less than 20 weeks, Ginger was hailed as a comer. Walter Winchell remarked, ". . . as poised as a veteran." And Brooks Atkinson of the Times noted, ". . . an impudent young thing, Ginger Rogers, who carried youth and humor to the point where they are completely charming." Her hit song in that show was "Hot and Bothered."

While Ginger was performing eight shows a week in "**Top Speed**," she also was making films for Paramount at their studio in Astoria, Long Island. Her first film, "**Young Man of Manhattan**," with Claudette Colbert, featured Ginger as a 16-year-old flapper, and her line, "Cigarette me, big boy," became a classic phrase in the American vocabulary.

Ginger's first starring role on Broadway was in George and Ira Gershwin's "**Girl Crazy**." Her two hit songs from that show, "Embraceable You" and "But Not For Me," have since become musical standards.



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At the close of "Girl Crazy" on Broadway, Ginger moved on to Hollywood and some 15 films later joined Fred Astaire for RKO in "Flying Down to Rio." The new team took the world by storm and subsequently made eight more pictures together, "Gay Divorcee," "Roberta," "Top Hat," "Follow the Fleet," "Swingtime," "Shall We Dance," "Carefree" and "The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle." Ten years later they made their tenth film together for MGM, "The Barkleys of Broadway."

In addition to her films with Astaire, Ginger also starred in a variety of comedies and dramas with such leading men as Cary Grant, Henry Fonda, William Powell, Ronald Coleman, Dick Powell, and James Stewart, and in 1940 won the coveted Academy Award for her role in "Kitty Foyle." In all, Ginger has made 73 films.

More recently, Ginger replaced Carol Channing in the starring role in "Hello Dolly" on Broadway to packed houses, standing ovations and an 18-month run, as well as on tour with the national company. In addition, she took "Mame" to London for a successful 14-month engagement, which

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Ginger has made guest appearances on a variety of TV shows. Including her own special, she has appeared with Perry Como, Bob Hope, Pat Boone, Steve Allen, Dean Martin and Lucille Ball. She also has been a guest on nearly every talk show, including "The Tonight Show" and "Mike Douglas."

In 1940, the same year she won the Oscar for "Kitty Foyle," Ginger bought a ranch on the Rogue River in Oregon, where she built a modern dairy complex and bred Guernsey milk stock for seven years. In 1963 she leased the dairy complex to the Medina Dairy, but in the Rogue River Valley, there still are strains of pure-bred Guernsey cattle with Ginger's name on their breeding records.

In 1969 Ginger sold the Beverly Hills home she had built on a hill, high above the city, with tennis court, swimming pool, theatre and studio, where she had lived for 34 years, and moved to her Rogers Rogue River Ranch, where she now makes her home.



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Ginger's avocation is art. She is both a talented painter and sculptor and could excel in either had she the time to devote. She also has been offered a "one-man show" in New York, but feels she should have more work to exhibit. An avid athlete as well, Ginger enjoys tennis, golf, swimming and skeet-shooting. She has won several tennis cups and some high-card records at skeet.

Ginger has been awarded many honors and citations. In 1973, a speech she made before the Congressional Women's Luncheon in Washington, D.C., found its way into the Congressional Record. It was read into the Record by Sen. McClorey of Illinois. Again in 1975, while at the White House reception for Emperor and Empress Hirohito, Ginger's thoughts and remarks on the American Bicentennial were read into the Congressional Record. In addition, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree by Austin College, Sherman, Texas.

Ginger is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, The Screen Actors Guild, the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists and Actors Equity.

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