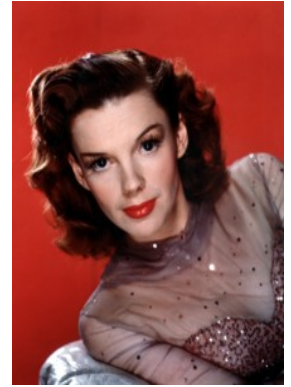


## Judy Garland (1922 - 1969)

Judy Garland (born Frances Ethel Gumm) was an American actress and singer. She rose to international fame as Dorothy Gale in *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), a role that cemented her status as a Hollywood legend.



She began her career as a child performer in vaudeville (see note below), together with her sisters, who performed as “The Gumm Sisters”. At age 13, she was signed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM), where she starred in numerous musical films, including *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), *Meet Me in St. Louis* (1944), *Easter Parade* (1948), and *Summer Stock* (1950). Known for her collaborations with Mickey Rooney and director Vincente Minnelli (her second husband), Judy Garland became one of MGM's most profitable actors during the “Golden Age of Hollywood”.

As well as a movie star, Judy Garland achieved success as a singer and concert performer. Her 1961 album, *Judy at Carnegie Hall*, won two Grammy Awards, including Album of the Year, making her the first woman to receive the honor. She also hosted her own Emmy-nominated television series, *The Judy Garland Show* (1963-1964). Her film career saw a resurgence in the 1950s and 1960s with critically acclaimed performances in *A Star Is Born* (1954) and *Judgment at Nuremberg* (1961), for which she received Academy Award nominations. She was one of only twelve people in history to receive an “Academy Juvenile Award”.

At age 39, Judy Garland became the youngest, and first female recipient, of the Cecil B. DeMille Award for lifetime achievement in the film industry. Throughout her career, Garland recorded many songs including "Over the Rainbow", (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSZxmZmBfnU>) which became her signature song, the Christmas classic "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CreWsnhQwzY>) and the Saint Patrick's Day anthem "It's a Great Day for the Irish" ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrt\\_PA5PfIM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrt_PA5PfIM)).

Garland struggled in her personal life from an early age. The pressures of early stardom significantly affected her physical and mental health. Her self-image was influenced by constant criticism from film executives who believed that she was physically unattractive and who manipulated her appearance for her films. She was only 151 cm tall and her "cute" looks did not exemplify the glamorous persona that they required of leading female performers. She was also self-conscious and anxious about her appearance. She was often referred to as “the ugly duckling”. This had a very damaging effect on her emotionally for a long time.

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### **Vaudeville**

*Vaudeville was a popular form of entertainment in the early 20th century. It involved a variety of short, live performances. It typically included comedy, singing, magic, acrobatics, dancing, ventriloquism, and other novelty acts. It was the original "variety show" – a mix of different performers all in one show, catering to a wide audience. It was especially popular in the USA and Canada before radio and films became the main forms of entertainment. Some of the biggest stars in Hollywood, like Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, and the Marx Brothers, started their careers in vaudeville.*

## The Wizard of Oz

In 1938, when Garland was sixteen, she was cast as Dorothy Gale in *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), a film based on the 1900 children's book by L. Frank Baum. MGM first tried to cast Shirley Temple in the role, but 20th Century Fox declined. Deanna Durbin was also approached to play the role, but was unavailable. Filming started on October 13, 1938, and was completed on March 16, 1939, with a final cost of more than \$2 million. The film was a tremendous critical success, though its high budget and estimated promotion costs (\$4 million) meant that the film did not return a profit until it was re-released in the 1940s. The film contained 21 songs including:

- Over the Rainbow
- The Jitterbug
- Munchkinland Medley
- If I Only Had a Brain
- If I Only Had a Heart and If I Only Had The Nerve
- The Merry Old Land of Oz
- We're Off To See The Wizard

## Personal Life

During her life, Judy often had financial troubles, sometimes owing hundreds of thousands of dollars in unpaid taxes. Throughout her adulthood, she also struggled with substance abuse, and she died from an accidental barbiturate overdose in 1969, at age 47.

Judy married 5 times and had 3 children, Liza Minnelli, Lorna Luft and Joey Luft (see photo).

In 1997, Garland was posthumously awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1999, the American Film Institute ranked her as the eighth-greatest female movie star of Hollywood.

