

# Judy Garland biography — highly engrossing

by Terry Dupuis  
 "Judy" by Gerold Frank, Dell Paperbacks, \$2.50; 716 pgs.

There are at least 4 biographies out now on the late singer and actress Judy Garland, but by far the most worthwhile one is the biography by Gerold Frank. Mr. Frank is an author whose previous books include "The Boston Strangler", "I'll Cry Tomorrow" and "Beloved Infidel". His massive and extensively researched biography of Judy Garland is likely to become the definitive book about the late star. Frank met Judy Garland on a number of occasions and conducted a series of interviews with her. Moreover he is the only biographer who was given total authority and cooperation by Judy Garland's husbands and children.

The book "Judy" studies Judy Garland's complete life in fascinating detail. All the triumphs and tragedies, the high points and the low moments of both her private and professional lives are detailed; her childhood years as a member of the family act known as the Gumm sisters, her many years under contract to MGM

where she starred in such classic musicals as The Wizard Of Oz, Meet Me In St. Louis, For Me And My Gal, The Pirate and Easter Parade; her being fired by MGM and her triumphant comeback several years later in A Star Is Born; her marriages to musician David Rose, director Vincente Minnelli, Sid Luft, and two further marriages before her death; her years-long battle with drugs; and her tragic death in 1969 at the age of 47.

"Judy" is a long biography, over 700 pages. But it is highly readable and engrossing. Once you get into it, it becomes difficult to put down. And that cannot be said about many other biographies. "The Great Child Stars" by James Robert Parish; Ace Paperbacks, \$1.75; 206 pgs.

This fascinating book by the author of "The Great Western Stars" takes a look at 24 of Hollywood's most talented child stars of the 30's, 40's and 50's. Some

child actors came to tragic ends as adults: Carl "Alfalfa" Switzer of the Our Gang comedies was shot dead in a bar room at the age of 31 and Bobby Driscoll who had starred in Walt Disney's "Song of the South" and who won a special honorary Oscar in 1949 for his performance in a thriller called "The Window" ended up a penniless vagrant and drug addict with a prison record.

On the other hand, many child stars did

manage a successful career as adults in motion pictures, performers such as Roddy McDowall, Mickey Rooney and Natalie Wood.

Then there were many child stars who outgrew their childhood charm and retired from motion pictures, but went on to live normal, well-adjusted and successful lives in other fields. For example, "Spanky" McFarland, the stout kid from the Our Gang comedies is now a highly successful 48-year old

Sales Manager. Freddie Bartholomew is a 51-year old Madison Avenue executive. Dickie Moore is also 51 now and he heads his own company which produces industrial shows.

Other child stars included in this informative book are Jackie Coogan, Jackie Cooper, Brandon de Wilde, Darryl Hickman, Mark Lester, Hayley Mills, Margaret O'Brien, Johnny Sheffield, Shirley Temple, George "Foghorn" Winslow and Jane Withers.

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## Mulcahy leaves Gryphon

Sean Mulcahy, for three years Artistic Director of Barrie's Gryphon Theatre has resigned, and declares he's "saddened to so suddenly sever my connection with Gryphon audiences."

Mulcahy's resignation was accepted at a September meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgian Foundation for the Performing Arts.

Wendy Hicks, Georgian Theatre Co-ordinator and board member insists that "it is with the greatest regret that we accepted Sean's resignation. He built Gryphon into very successful summer theatre."

Differences of opinion about casting for the 1977 Gryphon season are cited as reasons for the Mulcahy's departure. "Since the board couldn't accept my choice of plays and casting," said Mulcahy, "I had no choice but to interpret this as a lack of confidence. It was a case of either stay and collect a pay check or quit."

Mulcahy has a full plate of guest productions ahead of him. He's scheduled to direct plays at the Manitoba Theatre Centre, and at the Bronfman Theatre in Montreal and in Sudbury. He is also working on a documentary on Sean O'Casey for CBC-TV.

His biggest regret, he says, is leaving the Gryphon audiences. "They really seemed to understand what I was doing," he said, "and I'm terribly sorry to be leaving them."

Mrs. Hicks paid tribute to Mulcahy's contribution, and on behalf of the board, wished him every success in future ventures. "We have several prospects to fill the position of Artistic Director," she said.

"A decision will probably be reached at the next Board meeting, October 26."

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