THE JUDY GARLAND STORY
A CELEBRATION OF JUDY GARLAND’S LIFE AND MUSIC

WRITTEN BY DEBBIE COLLINS
DIRECTED BY CANDACE JENNINGS
DESIGNED BY TIM WEBB
MUSICAL DIRECTION AND ACCOMPANIMENT BY MICHAEL LEACH
An Introduction

The Judy Garland Story, written by and performed by Debbie Collins, is a nostalgic musical journey through the life of legendary performer Judy Garland. This fast paced revue covers Judy’s life from the age of 2 ½ to the time of her death in 1969. Those well known songs she made famous have had audiences singing along during the show and tearing up by the time they reach the touching closing concert scene. After successful runs at the Studio theatre in Orillia, a touring show for the Smile Theatre Company, multiple shows a Graydon’s Dinner theatre in Barrie, The Stirling Festival theatre, Brockville Arts Centre, The Gibson Centre in Alliston, and several fundraisers, this musical tribute has proven itself the perfect entertainment choice for any venue.
Location: London 1969

The stage is set for “the world’s greatest entertainer, Miss Judy Garland.” The timpani rolls, she is introduced and the orchestra plays the exciting introduction to *Swanee*. Judy however, does not appear, as happened with great regularity late in her career. Instead, after a few moments, Debbie appears, apologizes to the audience and seeks their permission to share Judy’s incredible story and sing some of her wonderful songs. With the aid of her accompanist, Debbie tells *The Judy Garland Story* beginning with Judy’s first onstage performance at age 2 ½. Ms. Collins tells Judy’s story through her eyes, taking the audience right along with her for the ride. We all celebrate her musical accomplishments, as well as the “inside” story of Judy’s life.

As the story unfolds, Debbie takes on the persona of Judy, or rather “morphs” into her. Act two is told through Judy’s eyes, and finally “Judy” arrives to perform a version of her live concert, taken from her most famous live concert at Carnegie Hall. The audience is encouraged to sing along and enjoy all of those memories. The show ends on a very tender note with Debbie singing Judy’s most famous song *Somewhere Over The Rainbow*, in true Judy spirit.
Song List

ACT I
Overture
Carolina in the Morning
Jingle Bells
Can’t Help Lovin’ Dat Man of Mine
Zing! Went the Strings of My Heart
Dear Mr. Gable
Danny Boy
For Me and My Gal
Meet me in St. Louis
Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas
The Atchison Topeka and the Santa Fe
Easter Parade
Couple of Swells

ACT II
Born in a Trunk
The Man That Got Away
Call Me Irresponsible
Judy’s Olio: You Made Me Love You/For me and My Gal/The Trolley Song
Swannee
Rock-a-bye your Baby
Through The Years
Zing! Went the Strings of My heart
Somewhere Over The Rainbow
History

- First written in 1999 for the Orillia Opera House Studio Theatre (the first show ever to appear in that space). Starring Debbie Collins and featuring Dave Campbell as Roger Edens and all of the men in Judy’s life. Accompanied by Rhonda Cryan.
- 2003, Remounted and moved to the upstairs space at the Orillia Opera House. With Dave Campbell, Rhonda Cryan (piano), Bob Hewus (double bass), and Adam David (drums).
- 2004 to 2009 various fundraisers and concert performances.
- 2010, The triumphant return of Judy! Rewritten and remounted as a one woman show for the Orillia Opera House Studio Theatre, starring Debbie Collins with accompanist Michael Leach. Direction and choreography by Candace Jennings. Set design by Tim Webb.
- 2010, performed at the Stirling Festival Theatre and The Gibson Centre.
- 2011, performed at the Brockville Arts Centre
What People Are Saying

- Debbie Collins has done a wonderful job chronicling the many stages of Judy Garland through story and song. You’ll be sure to be amazed and touched!
  – Krista Storey, GM Orillia Opera House

- Debbie Collins can truly belt out the “Judy style” we loved it.
  – Corinne & Edwin Wettlaufer, Kitchener

- The Judy Garland Story brought back such wonderful memories for my wife and I! “Through the Years” was the song we danced to at our wedding, and we’ve been married for 60 years.
  – Harry & Nora Nelson, Huntsville

- I can’t believe the energy and passion on that stage, coming from just one woman! Debbie’s show is wonderful and we were thoroughly entertained
  – Jeannie Jennings, Toronto

- Judy would have liked you!
  – adoring fan after a show
DEBBIE COLLINS

A singer, dancer and actor for over 30 years, some of her favourite performances include: Jolson, 42nd Street, Gypsy, Lucky Stiff, A Chorus Line, and The Producers to name a few. She was assistant to the artistic director in the Toronto Skydome Opening Ceremonies and was choreographer for the Grey cup halftime show at Skydome and several Mary Kay cosmetic industrial shows. Ms. Collins has performed for Canadian troops both overseas and in the Arctic, worked in film and television as was a vocalist/performer in the Canadian Idol season four finale. Debbie has written and produced: The Judy Garland Story, Mixed Doubles, Don’t S*it Under The Apple Tree, The Radio show and Debbie’s own One Woman Carnival

Debbie is best known in the industry as “fast, loud, and funny”.
Michael Leach

ACCOMPANIST

Michael has worked professionally in music, dance and theatre as a producer, director, musical director, keyboard player, studio musician and actor for 35 years, and has been a part of more than 150 different theatrical productions. As a pianist, organist and choral conductor, Michael has performed widely in Canada, the USA, England and France. He is also a long time member of the Faculty of Fine Arts, York University, Toronto.

Michael’s family is afraid that after spending so many years in darkened theatres, rehearsal halls, recording studios and orchestra pits, exposure to direct sunlight could be fatal!