



HIGH DEFINITION TAPE TRANSFERS

**JUDY GARLAND**

**THE LOST VEGAS SHOW**

**NEW FRONTIER HOTEL**

**JULY 16, 1956**

*First Release*

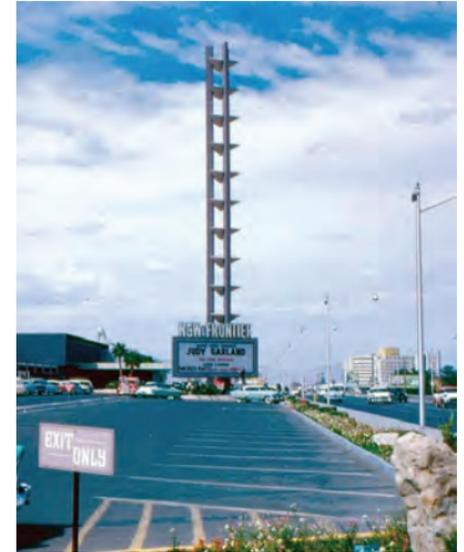


Viva Las Vegas, 1956  
by Lawrence Schulman

Just when you thought the well had dried up, up comes the water. What a thrill to discover, a hundred years after her birth and fifty-four years after her death, a new live recording by Judy Garland in her prime. Although one track, “Lucky Day,” had been released on CD in 2005, no one had ever heard her opening night live from the Venus Room at The New Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas on July 16, 1956 in extenso. Long said to exist but never before released, here it is, and even better, in high-resolution sound, transferred by HDTT’s Robert Witrak, and restored and remastered by John H. Haley of Harmony Restorations, LLC. Sourced from a professionally recorded ¼-inch “master” tape (the original tape) that was in private hands for many years, the show is a thrilling addition to Garland’s catalog of legendary stage performances, which always found her at her best. The electricity is in the air for this show, which was her nightclub debut. Garland, of course, had sung on stage before: first in the 1920s and 1930s in vaudeville, then in 1943 for her concert debut at the Robin Hood Dell in Philadelphia, and again in 1951 at the London Palladium with stops in the British provinces, at the New York Palace that same year, and in Long Beach, California in 1955. But singing in

clubs was new to her. Perhaps she had been deterred by stage fright, perhaps the noise of a rowdy audience, but in the end the offer of \$55,000 a week, the largest check ever paid a nightclub performer up until then, for a four-week run convinced her to take the plunge.

And what a plunge it was! At two shows – 7:30 PM and 12:30 AM – a night, her 68-minute act with her Eight Boyfriends, or male dancers, drew such crowds that 7,000 people had to be turned away on the opening weekend, and the engagement had to be extended another week to meet the demand. She earned a total of \$275,000, a sizeable sum at the time. *Daily Variety* called her “...a singer’s singer. Her style, her voice, and her delivery are the pride of the profession.” *Variety* wrote that “In an air of expectancy as electric as the opening of a promising new Broadway musical, one of the greatest modern-day singers caught fire last night in the first nitery engagement of her



career.” More than a commercial success, though, the run was also a family reunion and professional springboard. For Garland’s two older sisters, Suzanne and Virginia, who together with Judy were formerly known as The Gumm Sisters in their vaudeville act of the 1920s and 1930s, reunited with Judy for the occasion, on which Suzanne’s husband, Jack Cathcart, conducted Judy’s Las Vegas orchestra. Professionally, Garland was on a roll. Fresh off her initial Capitol Records sessions in March for the album *Judy*, her second LP for the label, and her General Electric Theater CBS-TV special in April, her second for the network, Garland was able to perform live many of the songs she had recorded in the studio. Some songs on the Las Vegas setlist, such as “Happiness Is a Thing Called Joe” from the Capitol album *Miss Show Business* (1955), “Any Place I Hang My Hat Is Home” and “Lucky Day,” both from the Capitol album *Judy* (1956), marked the first time she ever sang those songs live. So



the historic 1956 Las Vegas date was a real turning point in Garland’s career and was the first of many future appearances in nightclubs around the world. The same sold-out act moved on to the Palace in New York in September for her second sold-out run there, and Garland’s money-making draw was never as pronounced as it was in 1956, a very good year.

Garland died in 1969 and The New Frontier Hotel was demolished in 2007. The CD or download you now possess, an echo of the past, is a reminder of a nightclub act that evolved into the in-concert Garland of the late 1950s and 1960s, when she was freed from the “boyfriends” and empowered to be what she really was: one of the 20th century’s greatest singers of the Great American Songbook. Las Vegas was an important step in a short-lived career, and one which should be appreciated for what it is: an exciting and unforgettable snapshot of times gone by. Technical note : Judy Garland did not use her microphone for “Over the Rainbow,” which has been remastered to bring her voice forward. She also performed three encores, “Liza,” “After You’ve Gone,” and “Swanee,” all of which are missing from the original tape and are by all appearances lost. Only a few bars of “Liza” survive, and they have been included as a bonus, as well as Judy’s spoken introduction for the encores. Please also see the Venus Room’s menu included in the downloadable notes on the HDTT webpage for this release, courtesy of Raphael Geroni.

Recorded live at the Venus Room, New Frontier Hotel, Las Vegas, NV on July 16, 1956 (opening night of the five-week run and Garland's Las Vegas debut), recording engineer unknown.

High-Resolution transfer of original tape by Robert Witrak, HDTT (2022), at DSD256; restoration and remastering by John H. Haley, Harmony Restorations LLC (2022-23), at 352.8 kHz, 24 bits. Cover design by Robert Witrak.

Grateful thanks to Lawrence Schulman for his excellent notes and for much other invaluable assistance, planning and consultation.

Thanks also to Raphael Geroni for the Venus Room restaurant menu.

And special thanks, in memoriam, to Gerald E. Czulewicz, to whom we are grateful for survival of the original tape.

Booklet, compilation, restorations and remasterings:

© (p) 2023 High Definition Tape Transfers, Inc.,  
118 Tower Hill Road, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada L4E 0K6.  
Product of Canada. All rights reserved.

01. A Hot Time in the Old Town (Joe Hayden-Theodore August Metz) (The Eight Boyfriends) (3:38)
02. This Is a Party (Roger Edens-Kay Thompson) (Judy and the Eight Boyfriends) (1:28)
03. Dialog (0:49)
04. Judy's Olio: You Made Me Love You (James Monaco-Joseph McCarthy)/ For Me and My Gal (George Meyer-Edgar Leslie-E. Ray Goetz)/ The Boy Next Door (Hugh Martin-Ralph Blane)/The Trolley Song (Hugh Martin-Ralph Blane) (6:20)
05. Dialog (0:28)
06. Come Rain or Come Shine (Johnny Mercer-Harold Arlen) (4:32)
07. This Is Our Spot (Roger Edens-Kay Thompson) (The Eight Boyfriends) (3:25)
08. Any Place I Hang My Hat Is Home (Johnny Mercer-Harold Arlen) (Judy and the Eight Boyfriends) (4:37)
09. Dialog (0:46)
10. A Pretty Girl Milking Her Cow (based on Thomas Moore 18th-century traditional Irish ballad) (2:58)
11. Dialog (0:20)
12. Happiness Is a Thing Called Joe (E.Y. Harburg-Harold Arlen) (2:30)
13. Rock-A-Bye Your Baby with a Dixie Melody (Jean Schwartz-Sam M. Lewis-Joe Young) (3:25)
14. What Next? What'll She Do Now? (Roger Edens-Kay Thompson) (The Eight Boyfriends) (2:21)
15. Lucky Day (Buddy De Sylva-Lew Brown-Ray Henderson) (Judy and the Eight Boyfriends) (3:17)
16. Orchestral interlude: The Trolley Song (1:37)
17. Over the Rainbow (E.Y. Harburg-Harold Arlen) (Garland singing off-mic) (3:39)
18. Orchestral: Over the Rainbow (0:44)
- Bonus Tracks:
19. Dialog, introducing encores (1:01)
20. Opening notes of Liza (Ira Gershwin-Gus Kahn-George Gershwin) (end of tape) (0:15)

OUT OF THIS WORLD!



MENU

NEW FRONTIER HOTEL

LAS VEGAS

VENUS ROOM

DESIGNED BY MARY MAX

WORLD PREMIERE NIGHT CLUB PERFORMANCE

of

Miss Judy Garland

Please do not ask for Service during Miss Garland's Performance



ICED HEART OF GOLD MELON, SUPREME  
or SHRIMP LOUIE

Choice of

BAKED IDAHO BROOK TROUT, STUFFED A LA NEW FRONTIER

ROAST STUFFED BONELESS SQUAB CHICKEN, WILD RICE  
TRUFFLE SAUCE

BROILED FILET MIGNON, SAUCE BERCY

ROAST PRIME RIBS OF BEEF (BAKED IN ROCK SALT) AU JUS

GARDEN PEAS, FRANCAISE      NEW PARSLEY POTATOES

HEARTS OF ROMAINE  
ROQUEFORT DRESSING

RAINBOW SHERBET      STRAWBERRY SHORT CAKE

COFFEE      TEA      MILK



Seven Dollars and Fifty Cents  
(Plus Federal and State Tax)

Cuisine by  
Chef Schneider