

## BAMcinématek presents *That's Entertainment!: MGM Musicals Part I (1929-1949)*, Aug 26—Sep 24

Twenty-nine films, showcasing the legendary studio, starring some of Hollywood's original screen legends

The Wall Street Journal is the title sponsor for BAMcinématek and BAM Rose Cinemas.

**Aug 1, 2016/Brooklyn, NY**—From Friday, August 26, through Wednesday, September 24, BAMcinématek presents *That's Entertainment!: MGM Musicals Part I*, an exciting collection of MGM musicals from Hollywood's Golden Age. No studio did musicals better than MGM; theirs were bigger, splashier, catchier, and more innovative than any others. From the late 1920s to the late 1940s, the MGM lot was home to a staggering array of talent: legendary producer (and lyricist) Arthur Freed, the writing duo of Betty Comden and Adolph Green, songwriter and arranger Roger Edens, stars such as Judy Garland, Gene Kelly, and Fred Astaire; and visionary directors Vincente Minnelli and Busby Berkeley. Their work represents the apotheosis of this quintessentially American art form.

The series kicks off with an all-35mm weekend of *The Wizard of Oz* (Fleming, 1939—Aug 26, 27, 28), the film that made Judy Garland a star and solidified Technicolor's screen prominence. With its breathtaking production design, MGM's extravagant adaptation of the L. Frank Baum classic remains a pinnacle of studio-era craftsmanship. Renaissance man Gene Kelly was a mainstay of MGM musicals, and in *On the Town* (1949—Sep 11 & 12) he not only co-directs with Stanley Donen, but sings and dances alongside Frank Sinatra, as two of a trio of sailors on-leave in New York City. Kelly danced with the legendary Fred Astaire just once in their prime, in *Ziegfeld Follies* (Ayers, Del Ruth, Lewis, Minnelli, Sidney, Pye & Walters, 1945—Sep 21), the omnibus MGM musical that closes out the series.

Vincente Minnelli's high energy musicals will be shown, beginning with *Meet Me in St. Louis* (1944—Sep 2, 3, 4), his sublime evocation of early 20th-century America helmed by Judy Garland's unforgettable voice. Minnelli's surrealist musical *Yolanda and the Thief* (1945—Sep 6) stars the magnificent Fred Astaire and, with the "Coffee Time" number set on an optical illusion dance floor, is one of the most outlandish, dreamlike films of the era. Minnelli's *Cabin in the Sky* (1943—Sep 9 & 10) screens the same weekend as King Vidor's *Hallelujah* (1929 – Sep 9). These two MGM landmarks are among the only studio films of the classic Hollywood era with predominately African American casts and feature performances by some of the most legendary African American actors and musicians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century: Lena Horne, Ethel Waters, Nina Mae McKinney and Louis Armstrong.

The series also includes: *Anchors Aweigh* (Sidney, 1945—Sep 20), *Babes in Toyland AKA March of the Wooden Soldiers* (Meins & Rogers, 1934—Sep 4), *The Barkleys of Broadway* (Walters, 1949—Sep 14), *Born to Dance* (Del Ruth, 1936—Aug 29), *Easter Parade* (Walters, 1948—Sep 18), *In the Good Old Summer Time* (Leonard, 1949—Sep 19), *Madam Satan* (Demille, 1930—Aug 30), *The Merry Widow* (Lubitsch, 1934—Aug 31), *Strike Up the Band* (Berkeley, 1940—Sep 5), *Summer Holiday* (Mamoulian, 1948—Sep 13), *The Pirate* (Minnelli, 1948—Sep 16 & 17), and, for Labor Day, *Take Me Out To The Ball Game* (Berkeley, 1949—Sep 5).

For further press information, please contact:

Maureen Masters at 718.724.8023 / [mmasters@BAM.org](mailto:mmasters@BAM.org)

Melina Gills at 718.724.8022 / [mgills@BAM.org](mailto:mgills@BAM.org)

## **That's Entertainment!: MGM Musicals Part I Schedule**

Fri, Aug 26

*The Wizard of Oz* (Fleming, 1939)  
2, 4:30, 7, 9:15pm

Sat, Aug 27

*The Wizard of Oz* (Fleming, 1939)  
7, 9:15pm

Sun, Aug 28

*The Wizard of Oz* (Fleming, 1939)  
2, 4:30, 7, 9:15pm

Mon, Aug 29

*Born to Dance* (Del Ruth, 1936)  
7, 9:15pm

Tue, Aug 30

*Madam Satan* (Demille, 1930)  
7, 9:30pm

Wed, Aug 31

*The Merry Widow* (Lubitsch, 1934)  
4:30, 7, 9:15pm

Fri, Sep 2

*Meet Me in St. Louis* (Minnelli, 1944)  
2, 4:30, 7, 9:30pm

Sat, Sep 3

*Meet Me in St. Louis* (Minnelli, 1944)  
2, 4:30, 7, 9:30pm

Sun, Sep 4

*Babes in Toyland* AKA *March of the Wooden Soldiers* (Meins, Rogers; 1934)  
2, 6:30pm  
*Meet Me in St. Louis* (Minnelli, 1944)  
4, 8:30pm

Mon, Sep 5

*Strike Up the Band* (Berkeley, 1940)  
2, 6:45pm  
*Take Me Out To the Ball Game* (Berkeley, 1949)  
4:30, 9:15pm

Tue, Sep 6

*Yolanda and the Thief* (Minnelli, 1945)  
4:30, 7, 9:30pm

Fri, Sep 9

*Cabin in the Sky* (Minnelli, 1943)

# BAMcinématek

2, 4:30pm  
*Hallelujah* (Vidor, 1929)  
7, 9:30pm

Sat, Sep 10  
*Cabin in the Sky* (Minnelli, 1943)  
2, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45pm

Sun, Sep 11  
*On the Town* (Donen, Kelly; 1949)  
2, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45pm

Mon, Sep 12  
*On the Town* (Donen, Kelly; 1949)  
4:30, 7, 9:15pm

Tue, Sep 13  
*Summer Holiday* (Mamoulian, 1948)  
4:30, 7, 9:15pm

Wed, Sep 14  
*The Barkleys of Broadway* (Walters, 1949)  
4:30, 7, 9:30pm

Fri, Sep 16  
*The Pirate* (Minnelli, 1948)  
2, 4:30, 7, 9:15pm

Sat, Sep 17  
*The Pirate* (Minnelli, 1948)  
7, 9:15pm

Sun, Sep 18  
*Easter Parade* (Walters, 1948)  
2, 4:30, 7, 9:15pm

Mon, Sep 19  
*In The Good Old Summer Time* (Leonard, 1949)  
7, 9:15pm

Tue, Sep 20  
*Anchors Aweigh* (Sidney, 1945)  
5, 8pm

Wed, Sep 21  
*Ziegfeld Follies* (Ayers, Del Ruth, Lewis, Minnelli, Sidney, Pye, Walters; 1945)  
4:30, 7, 9:30pm

## **Film Descriptions**

***Anchors Aweigh* (1945)**  
*Dir. George Sidney. With Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra, Kathryn Grayson.*

# BAMcinématek

Kelly and Sinatra are sailors living it up while on leave in Hollywood in the first of three classic buddy pictures they made that capitalized on their comedic chemistry. Along the way there's romance, a rare peek behind the scenes of the MGM studio lot, and Kelly dancing alongside one of his most memorable partners: Jerry the cartoon mouse.

**Tue, Sep 20 at 5, 8pm**

***Babes in Toyland AKA March of the Wooden Soldiers* (1934)**

*Dirs. Gus Meins & Charley Rogers. With Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy, Charlotte Henry.*

The cracked genius of Laurel and Hardy runs wild in this pleasingly eccentric adaptation of a Victor Herbert operetta. The boys are at their best as a pair of bumbling toymakers in an enchanted village who try to save Little Bo Peep from marrying evil landlord Silas Barnaby. It's a childhood classic, to be sure, but—like the best fairy tales—tinged with a touch of the nightmarish.

*Print courtesy of the UCLA Film & Television Archive.*

**Sun, Sep 4 at 2, 6:30pm**

***The Barkleys of Broadway* (1949)**

*Dir. Charles Walters. With Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Oscar Levant.*

The legendary Astaire-Rogers team reunited for one last time in this sparkling backstage comedy. They play a Broadway duo whose act—and marriage—threaten to dissolve when she's offered a serious stage career. Fred sings the Gershwin classic "They Can't Take That Away from Me" and delights in the imaginative "Shoes with Wings" number, in which his tap shoes take on a mind of their own.

**Wed, Sep 14 at 4:30, 7, 9:30pm**

***Born to Dance* (1936)**

*Dir. Roy Del Ruth. With Eleanor Powell, James Stewart, Virginia Bruce.*

Tap-dancing sensation Eleanor Powell displays her superhuman hoofing as a Broadway hopeful who strikes up a rocky relationship with a sailor (Stewart, singing and dancing in his only musical role). This tuneful romance is packed with Cole Porter melodies—including debuting standards "Easy to Love" and "I've Got You Under My Skin"—and features a show-stopping finale set aboard an Art Deco battleship. *Print courtesy of the British Film Institute.*

**Sun, Aug 28 at 7, 9:15pm**

***Cabin in the Sky* (1943)**

*Dir. Vincente Minnelli. With Ethel Waters, Eddie 'Rochester' Anderson, Lena Horne.*

A who's-who of legendary black entertainers—including Ethel Waters, Lena Horne, Louis Armstrong, John Bubbles, and Duke Ellington—star in this Faustian fantasy, in which the forces of good and evil wage a struggle for the soul of a ne'er-do-well gambler (Anderson). Vincente Minnelli's directorial debut is highlighted by Waters performing "Taking a Chance on Love."

**Fri, Sep 9 at 2, 4:30pm & Sat, Sep 10 at 2, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45pm**

***Easter Parade* (1948)**

*Dir. Charles Walters. With Judy Garland, Fred Astaire, Peter Lawford.*

Irving Berlin tunes, turn-of-the-century charm, and the megawatt talents of Judy Garland and Fred Astaire come together in this legendary sing-a-long. Astaire is a vaudevillian who, when his partner walks out on him, transforms a showgirl (Garland) into his new singing, dancing costar. Fred taps in slo-mo to "Steppin' Out With My Baby," Judy delivers the title song, and the two share the stage as "A Couple of Swells."

**Sun, Sep 18 at 2, 4:30, 7, 9:15pm**

***Hallelujah* (1929)**

*Dir. King Vidor. With Daniel L. Haynes, Nina Mae McKinney, William Fountaine.*

A landmark for both its innovative use of sound and as the first film by a major studio to star a cast of all black performers, King Vidor's early talkie melodrama concerns a sharecropper (Haynes) ruined by a shiftless woman (McKinney, one of the first black movie stars, in her debut). Though it reflects many of the racial stereotypes of the time, *Hallelujah* stands as Hollywood's first attempt to sympathetically depict the black experience. *Print courtesy of the George Eastman Museum.*

**Fri, Sep 9 at 7, 9:30pm**

***In the Good Old Summertime* (1949)**

*Dir. Robert Z. Leonard. With Judy Garland, Van Johnson, S.Z. Sakall.*

Judy Garland's star power carries this delightful musical remake of *The Shop Around the Corner*. She and Van Johnson are the turn-of-the-century music store clerks who can't stand one another, not realizing that they are pitching woo by mail as secret pen pals. Buster Keaton, deadpan as ever, makes his last appearance in an MGM film, while a three-year-old Liza Minnelli debuts. *Print courtesy of the UCLA Film & Television Archive.*

**Mon, Sep 19 at 7, 9:15pm**

***Madam Satan* (1930)**

*Dir. Cecil B. DeMille. With Kay Johnson, Reginald Denny, Lillian Roth.*

DeMille's unclassifiable Pre-Code whatzit is one of the most deliciously deranged concoctions of the 1930s. It begins as a risqué sex farce, with a society woman (Johnson) discovering her husband's infidelity, before morphing into an outré musical extravaganza: aboard a floating zeppelin full of revelers in avant-garde couture, our heroine transforms into the mysterious Madam Satan and sets about exacting her revenge. *Print courtesy of the George Eastman Museum.*

**Tue, Aug 30 at 7, 9:30pm**

***Meet Me in St. Louis* (1944)**

*Dir. Vincente Minnelli. With Judy Garland, Margaret O'Brien, Mary Astor.*

Vincente Minnelli's sublime evocation of early 20th-century America recounts one year in the life of the Smith family of St. Louis as they eagerly anticipate the coming World's Fair—with romance, heartbreak, and holiday celebrations along the way. One of the all-time great musicals balances heart-warming nostalgia and heart-tugging melancholy, never more poignantly than in Judy's plaintive rendition of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

**Fri, Sep 2 at 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30pm & Sat, Sep 3 at 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30pm & Sun, Sep 4 at 4, 8:30pm**

***The Merry Widow* (1934)**

*Dir. Ernst Lubitsch. With Maurice Chevalier, Jeanette MacDonald, Edward Everett Horton.*

The famed "Lubitsch touch" is on full display in this elegant, naughtily Pre-Code operetta starring superstar duo Chevalier and MacDonald. He's a playboy count, she's the wealthy widow he sets out to seduce. MGM spared no expense, and it shows in the lavish sets designed by the studio's art director extraordinaire Cedric Gibbons.

**Wed, Aug 31 at 4:30, 7, 9:15pm**

***On the Town* (1949)**

*Dirs. Stanley Donen & Gene Kelly.*

With Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra, Betty Garrett. Three sailors, 24 hours on leave, and all of New York City at their feet. Based on the stage hit and featuring the Leonard Bernstein standard "New York, New York," this all-time classic has a whirlwind energy unlike any other musical of the era thanks to the innovative location shooting that zips all over the Big Apple, from the Navy Yard to the Brooklyn Bridge to Rockefeller Center.

**Sun, Sep 11 at 2, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45pm & Mon, Sep 12 at 4:30, 7, 9:15pm**

***The Pirate* (1948)**

*Dir. Vincente Minnelli. With Judy Garland, Gene Kelly, Walter Slezak.*

A traveling actor (Kelly) woos a starry-eyed damsel (Garland) by impersonating her romantic idol, the notorious pirate Macoco, in Minnelli's dazzlingly stylized, riotously colorful celebration of artifice. The memorable Cole Porter songs include two renditions of "Be a Clown": first performed by Kelly and gravity-defying dance team the Nicholas Brothers, then again by Kelly and Garland.  
**Fri, Sep 16 at 2, 4:30, 7, 9:15pm & Sat, Sep 17 at 7, 9:15pm**

***Strike Up the Band* (1940)**

*Dir. Busby Berkeley. With Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland, Paul Whiteman.*

The irrepressible exuberance of Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland propels this lively, let's-put-on-a-show charmer. They're two swing-crazy kids who transform their high-school band into a modern dance orchestra, taking their show all the way to Chicago to audition for "King of Jazz" Paul Whiteman. Highlights include a delirious conga number and Rooney conducting an orchestra of animated fruit.

**Mon, Sep 5 at 2, 6:45pm**

***Summer Holiday* (1948)**

*Dir. Rouben Mamoulian. With Mickey Rooney, Gloria DeHaven, Walter Huston.*

Eugene O'Neill's *Ah, Wilderness!* was adapted into this rosily nostalgic slice of Americana. Mickey Rooney is a Yale-bound idealist coming of age one summer in his postcard-perfect Connecticut town—but his penchant for spouting Marxist critiques of capitalism threatens to jeopardize a budding romance. Director Mamoulian displays his exquisite eye for turn-of-the-century period detail in a red, white, and blue-spangled Fourth of July celebration.

**Tue, Sep 13 at 4:30, 7, 9:15pm**

***Take Me Out to the Ball Game* (1949)**

*Dir. Busby Berkeley. With Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra, Esther Williams.*

Two great American traditions—baseball and the musical—collide in this infectiously zippy farce. Kelly and Sinatra are a pair of sluggers (and erstwhile vaudevillians) whose ball club is thrown into a tizzy when they learn that the new owner is (shocker!) a woman (Williams). Sinatra croons, Kelly clowns, and everything's resolved in a surprisingly Brechtian musical number.

**Mon, Sep 5 at 4:30, 9:15pm**

***Ziegfeld Follies* (1946)**

*Dirs. Vincente Minnelli, George Sidney, et al. With William Powell, Judy Garland, Fred Astaire.*

MGM's galaxy of stars light up this surreally stylized, Technicolor revue, which features Lucille Ball using her whip to tame a bevy of chorus girl tigers, Judy Garland doing a hilarious spoof of a "serious" actress, and Vincente Minnelli directing Fred Astaire in three numbers—including the only time in their prime that Astaire danced alongside Gene Kelly.

**Thu, Sep 22 at 4:30, 7, 9:30pm**

***The Wizard of Oz* (1939)**

*Dir. Victor Fleming. With Judy Garland, Frank Morgan, Margaret Hamilton.*

Gingham-frocked Dorothy's dream of leaving behind dreary Kansas for "somewhere over the rainbow" comes true when a tornado whisks her—and her little dog, too—away to the Technicolor fantasyland of Oz. With its a-star-is-born performance from Judy Garland and breathtaking production design, MGM's extravagant adaptation of the L. Frank Baum classic remains a pinnacle of studio-era craftsmanship.

**Fri, Aug 26 at 2, 4:30, 9:15pm & Sat, Aug 27 at 7, 9:15pm & Sun, Aug 28 at 2, 4:30, 7, 9:14pm**

***Yolanda and the Thief* (1945)**

*Dir. Vincente Minnelli. With Fred Astaire, Lucille Bremer, Frank Morgan.*

Vincente Minnelli's desire to make a surrealist musical resulted in one of the most outlandish, dreamlike films of the era. Set in a Daliesque fantasy vision of South America, *Yolanda* stars

Astaire as a con artist who sets out to fleece a naïve heiress (Bremer)—but winds up falling in love. The musical highlight is the inventive “Coffee Time” number, set on an optical illusion dance floor.

**Tue, Sep 6 at 4:30, 7, 9:30pm**

## About BAMcinématek

The four-screen BAM Rose Cinemas (BRC) opened in 1998 to offer Brooklyn audiences alternative and independent films that might not play in the borough otherwise, making BAM the only performing arts center in the country with two mainstage theaters and a multiplex cinema. In July 1999, beginning with a series celebrating the work of Spike Lee, BAMcinématek was born as Brooklyn’s only daily, year-round repertory film program. BAMcinématek presents new and rarely seen contemporary films, classics, work by local artists, and festivals of films from around the world, often with special appearances by directors, actors, and other guests. BAMcinématek has not only presented major retrospectives by major filmmakers such as Michelangelo Antonioni, Manoel de Oliveira, Shohei Imamura, Vincente Minnelli (winning a National Film Critics’ Circle Award prize for the retrospective), Kaneto Shindo, Luchino Visconti, and William Friedkin, but it has also introduced New York audiences to contemporary artists such as Pedro Costa and Apichatpong Weerasethakul. In addition, BAMcinématek programmed the first US retrospectives of directors Arnaud Desplechin, Nicolas Winding Refn, Hong Sang-soo, and Andrzej Zulawski. From 2006 to 2008, BAMcinématek partnered with the Sundance Institute and in June 2009 launched BAMcinemaFest, a 16-day festival of new independent films and repertory favorites with 15 NY feature film premieres; the eighth annual BAMcinemaFest ran from June 15—26, 2016.

## Credits

*The Wall Street Journal* is the title sponsor of BAM Rose Cinemas and BAMcinématek.

Steinberg Screen at the BAM Harvey Theater is made possible by The Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Charitable Trust.

Delta is the Official Airline of BAM. Pepsi is the official beverage of BAM. Santander is the BAM Marquee sponsor.

BAM Rose Cinemas are named in recognition of a major gift in honor of Jonathan F.P. and Diana Calthorpe Rose. BAM Rose Cinemas would also like to acknowledge the generous support of The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, The Estate of Richard B. Fisher, Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, Brooklyn Delegation of the New York City Council, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, and Bloomberg. Additional support for BAMcinématek is provided by The Grodzins Fund, The Liman Foundation, and the Julian Price Family Foundation.

The BAM facilities are owned by the City of New York and benefit from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs with support from Mayor Bill de Blasio; Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl; the New York City Council including Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Finance Committee Chair Julissa Ferreras, Cultural Affairs Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, the Brooklyn Delegation of the Council, and Council Member Laurie Cumbo; and Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams. BAM would like to thank the Brooklyn Delegations of the New York State Assembly, Joseph R. Lentol, Delegation Leader; and New York Senate, Senator Velmanette Montgomery, Delegation Leader.

Thanks to Kristie Nakamura/WB Classics; Todd Wiener & Steven Hill/UCLA Film & Television Archive; Mark McElhatten/Sikelia Productions; Hannah Prouse/British Film Institute; Daniel Bish/George Eastman Museum.

### General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers a bar menu and dinner entrées prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances. BAMcafé also features an eclectic mix of spoken word and live music for BAMcafé Live on Friday and Saturday nights with a bar menu available starting at 6pm.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater)  
D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue  
Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center  
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM  
Car: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit [BAM.org](http://BAM.org)

# BAMcinématek



