

AMERICAN MASTERS



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***American Masters* Spotlights Stage and Screen Icon Liza Minnelli with Dazzling Documentary Premiering April 1 on PBS**

***LIZA: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story* dives into the star's life and career with interviews with Michael Feinstein, Ben Vereen, Mia Farrow, Darren Criss and more**

Liza Minnelli was born in the spotlight and has spent her life entertaining audiences with her magnetic charm and formidable talents as an actress, singer and dancer. The daughter of the legendary Judy Garland and director Vincente Minnelli, Liza made a name for herself as an influential performer and celebrated EGOT winner, having received an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and four Tony Awards. Learn how Minnelli became the star she is today, navigating professional and personal challenges with the help of extraordinary mentors in ***American Masters – LIZA: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story***, premiering nationwide Tuesday, April 1 at 9 p.m. ET on PBS (check local listings), pbs.org/americanmasters and the [PBS App](#). The film kicks off The WNET Group's special **Broadway and Beyond** festival, celebrating theater productions and the people who bring them to life.

Featuring archival footage and stills, performance clips and new interviews with Minnelli, ***LIZA: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story*** is an intimate look into her dynamic life, from her complex relationship with her mother to her skyrocketing stardom after her Academy Award-winning role in *Cabaret*. The film dives into her relationships with her most trusted mentors, like

Kay Thompson, Fred Ebb, Charles Aznavour, Halston and Bob Fosse, and their profound influence on Minnelli throughout her decades-long career.

LIZA: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story, which made its world premiere at the June 2024 Tribeca Film Festival, features a star-studded lineup of interviewees including performers **Michael Feinstein, Ben Vereen, Jim Caruso and George Hamilton**, actress **Mia Farrow**, *Cabaret* co-star **Joel Grey**, actor **Darren Criss** and the late **Chita Rivera**. The featured talent, along with Minnelli, reveal candid insights into the star's illustrious life, from navigating fame after her mother's death to her romantic relationships.

As the daughter of Hollywood royalty, Minnelli was no stranger to the spotlight from an early age. As a toddler, she made an uncredited on-screen appearance in 1949's *In The Good Old Summertime*, also starring Garland. Minnelli developed a passion for performing throughout her youth and honed her dance and vocal talents. She received her first Academy Award nomination in 1970 for her lead role in *The Sterile Cuckoo*.

Shortly thereafter, Minnelli was launched into global stardom after her career-defining role as Sally Bowles in 1972's *Cabaret*, which earned her many honors including an Academy Award for Best Actress in A Leading Role. Following the film's success, Minnelli starred in the Emmy-winning *Liza with a Z*, a television concert special produced by Ebb and Fosse that cemented her place as a triple threat and Hollywood icon.

Over the years, Minnelli has starred in numerous titles within film, television and theater, with memorable credits including *New York, New York*, *Arthur*, *Arrested Development*, and stage performances in *Chicago* and *Victor/Victoria*. While she has not performed in recent years, Minnelli's legacy endures as new generations discover her timeless work.

LIZA: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story is directed, written and produced by Bruce David Klein, who previously directed and produced *Meat Loaf: In Search of Paradise* and the Emmy-nominated *Icahn: The Restless Billionaire*, and produced the documentary feature *Best Worst Thing That Ever Could Have Happened*.

"Liza [Minnelli] is the quintessential superstar," said Klein. "She overcame so much pressure and scrutiny, with the help of incredible mentors and friends, to become the legend she is today. It was honor to capture more of Liza's vivacity, vulnerability and candor for the world to see."

"Liza is one of the people for whom a first name is enough, as her influence is evident not only in show business, but in other parts of culture, including fashion, nightlife and art," said Michael Kantor, Executive Producer of ***American Masters***. "This film offers a unique and intimate perspective that will thrill viewers nationwide."

Now in its 39th season on PBS, ***American Masters*** illuminates the lives and creative journeys of our nation's most enduring artistic giants — those who have left an indelible impression on our cultural landscape — through compelling, unvarnished stories. Setting the standard for documentary film profiles, the series has earned widespread critical acclaim: 28 Emmy Awards — including 10 for Outstanding Nonfiction Series and five for Outstanding Nonfiction Special— two News & Documentary Emmys, 14 Peabodys, three Grammys, two Producers Guild Awards, an Oscar, and many other honors. To further explore the lives and works of more than 290 masters past and present, the [American Masters website](#) offers full episodes, film outtakes, filmmaker interviews, the podcast “American Masters: Creative Spark,” educational resources, digital original series and more. The series is a production of The WNET Group.

LIZA: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story is a production of Atlas Media Corp in association with Showtime Networks Inc. and American Masters Pictures. Bruce David Klein is director, writer and producer. Dori Berinstein is executive producer. Alex Goldstein and Robert Rich are producers. Dana Craig is co-producer. For ***American Masters***, Michael Kantor is executive producer, Julie Sacks is series producer, and Joe Skinner is digital lead.

American Masters will be available for streaming concurrent with broadcast on all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](#) and the [PBS app](#), available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO. PBS station members can view many series, documentaries and specials via [PBS Passport](#). For more information about PBS Passport, visit the [PBS Passport FAQ](#) website.

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[The WNET Group](#) creates inspiring media content and meaningful experiences for diverse audiences nationwide. It is the community-supported home of New York's [THIRTEEN](#) – America's flagship PBS station – [WLIW](#), THIRTEEN PBS KIDS, WLIW World and Create; [NJ PBS](#), New Jersey's statewide public television network; Long Island's only NPR station WLIW-FM; [ALL ARTS](#), the arts and culture media provider; newsroom [NJ Spotlight News](#); and FAST channel PBS Nature. Through these channels and streaming platforms, The WNET Group brings arts, culture, education, news, documentary, entertainment, and DIY programming to more than five million viewers each month. The WNET Group's award-winning productions include signature PBS series ***Nature***, ***Great Performances***, ***American Masters***, and ***Amanpour and Company*** and trusted local news programs like ***NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozzi***. Inspiring curiosity and nurturing dreams, The WNET Group's award-winning Kids' Media and Education team produces the PBS KIDS series ***Cyberchase***, interactive ***Mission US*** history games, and resources for families, teachers and caregivers. A leading nonprofit public media producer for more than 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning, including initiatives addressing poverty, jobs, economic opportunity, social justice, understanding, and the environment. Through Passport, station members can stream new and archival programming anytime, anywhere. The WNET Group represents the best in public media. Join us.