



SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

MAIN FACTS

Made: 1952

PRODUCTION COMPANY: MGM

Directed by: Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen

Written By: Betty Comden and Adolph Green

Starring: Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor, Debbie Reynolds, Jean Hagan

Genre: Musical/Romantic Comedy

MAJOR PLOT POINTS

In 1927, Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont are a famous on-screen romantic pair. Lina, however, mistakes the on-screen romance for real love. Don has worked hard to get where he is today, with his former partner Cosmo. When Don and Lina's latest film is transformed into a musical, Don has the perfect voice for the songs. But Lina - well, even with the best efforts of a diction coach, they still decide to dub over her voice. Kathy Selden is brought in, an aspiring actress, and while she is working on the movie, Don falls in love with her. Will Kathy continue to "aspire", or will she get the break she deserves ? (IMDB)

FINANCIALS

Budget: 2.5 Million

Money Made: 12.4 Million

QUOTES

Notable quotes from the movie

Lina Lamont: What do they think I am? Dumb or something? Why, I make more money than - than - than Calvin Coolidge! Put together!

- Man in talking pictures demonstration: Hello! This is a demonstration of a talking picture. Notice, it is a picture of me and I am talking. Note how my lips and the sound issuing from them are synchronized together in perfect unison.
- Cosmo Brown: Lina, you were fabulous. You sang as good as Kathy Selden.

R.F. Simpson: Cosmo, remind me to give you a raise.

[turns around]

Cosmo Brown: Oh, R.F.

R.F. Simpson: Yes?

Cosmo Brown: Give me a raise.

HISTORICAL/CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Discusses the change from silent film to talking pictures.

Uses a collection of songs from the MGM song catalogue.

FILMING INFORMATION

Filming location(s): MGM studios in Culver City, California

Shot in technicolor.

Used stock footage from The Three Musketeers which starred Gene Kelly.

COMPOSITION/MUSIC NOTES

Song catalogue from MGM.

All songs have lyrics by Freed and music by Brown unless otherwise indicated.^[11] Some of the songs, such as "Broadway Rhythm," "Should I?," and most notably "Singin' in the Rain," have been featured in numerous films. The films listed below mark the first time each song was presented on screen.

"Fit as a Fiddle (And Ready for Love)" from *College Coach* (1933)(music by Al Hoffman and Al Goodhart, lyrics by Freed)

"Temptation" (instrumental only) from *Going Hollywood* (1933)

"All I Do Is Dream of You" from *Sadie McKee* (1934)

"Singin' in the Rain" from *The Hollywood Revue of 1929* (1929)

"Make 'Em Laugh," considered an original song, but bearing a striking resemblance to Cole Porter's "Be a Clown," used in another MGM Freed-produced musical, *The Pirate* (1948). Credited to Comden and Green.

"Beautiful Girl Montage" comprising "I've Got a Feelin' You're Foolin'" from *Broadway Melody of 1936* (1935), "The Wedding of the Painted Doll" from *The Broadway Melody* (1929), "Should I?" from *Lord Byron of Broadway* (1930) and "Beautiful Girl" from *Stage Mother* (1933)

"You Were Meant for Me" from *The Broadway Melody* (1929)

"You Are My Lucky Star" from *Broadway Melody of 1936* (1935)

"Moses Supposes" (music by Roger Edens, lyrics by Comden and Green)

"Good Morning" from *Babes In Arms* (1939)

"Would You?" from *San Francisco* (1936)

"Broadway Melody" composed of "The Broadway Melody" from *The Broadway Melody* (1929)and "Broadway Rhythm" from *Broadway Melody of 1936*(1935) The music for the "Broadway Ballet" section is by Nacio Herb Brown.

INANE TRIVIA

Gene Kelly insulted Debbie Reynolds for not being able to dance. Fred Astaire, who was hanging around the studio, found her crying under a piano and helped her with her dancing.

Debbie Reynolds remarked many years later that making this movie and surviving childbirth were the two hardest things she's ever had to do.

For the "Make Em Laugh" number, Gene Kelly asked Donald O'Connor to revive a trick he had done as a young dancer, running up a wall and completing a somersault. The number was so physically taxing that O'Connor, who smoked four packs of cigarettes a day at the time, went to bed (or may have been hospitalized, depending on the source) for a week after its completion, suffering from exhaustion and painful carpet burns. Unfortunately, an accident ruined all of the initial footage, so after a brief rest, O'Connor—ever the professional—agreed to do the difficult number all over again.

MORE TRIVIA

After they finished the "Good Morning" number, Debbie Reynolds had to be carried to her dressing room because she had burst some blood vessels in her feet. Despite her hard work on the "Good Morning" number, Gene Kelly decided that someone should dub her tap sounds, so he went into a dubbing room to dub the sound of her feet as well as his own.

In the "Would You" number, Kathy Selden (Debbie Reynolds) is dubbing the voice of Lina Lamont (Jean Hagen) because Lina's voice is shrill and screechy. However, it's not Reynolds who is really speaking, it's Jean Hagen herself, who actually had a beautiful deep, rich voice. So you have Jean Hagen dubbing Debbie Reynolds dubbing Jean Hagen. And when Debbie is supposedly dubbing Jean's singing of "Would You", the voice you hear singing actually belongs to Betty Noyes, who had a much richer singing voice than Debbie.

The script was written after the songs, and so the writers had to generate a plot into which the songs would fit.

EVEN MORE TRIVIA

In 2007, the American Film Institute ranked this as the #5 Greatest Movie of All Time.

This movie was Gene Kelly's trump card to get out of his contract with MGM. Kelly would later talk about roles such as Guys and Dolls (1955) he had to turn down due to conflicts with his contract with the studio. This movie was not only a hit but a mockery of MGM itself. Kelly was later released from his contract. He had a poor attitude throughout the filming, but most of it was an act just to get the studio frustrated with him.

The "Broadway Ballet" sequence took a month to rehearse, two weeks to shoot, and cost \$600,000, almost a fifth of the overall budget.

Ink was added to the water for the title number to make the rain appear more visible.

The last shot of the "Good Morning" number, with Don, Kathy and Cosmo falling over the couch, took forty takes to film.

ACCOLADES

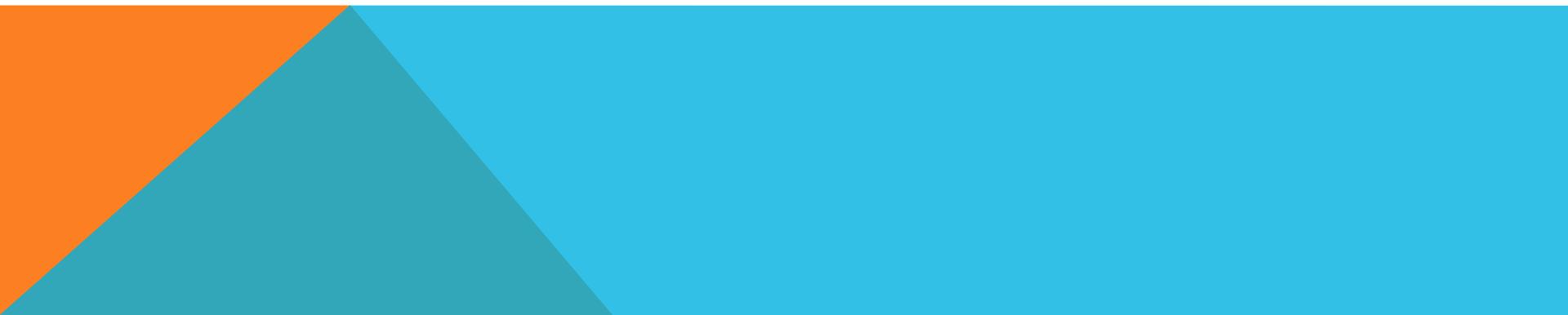
Academy Award Nominations

Jean Hagan- Best Supporting Actress

Best Original Score

Golden Globes

Won- Donald O'Connor Best Supporting Actor



EXTRA INFORMATION

The soundstage used for the signature "Singin' In The Rain" scene is used for the street scenes for the quintessential 80's & 90's hit TV series sit-com Seinfeld.

Named the #1 Greatest Movie Musical of All-Time by OnStage.

Debbie Reynolds was 19 years old when she appeared in this film, the same age as her daughter Carrie Fisher when she made Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope (1977). This film is also featured in Léon: The Professional (1994), which featured Natalie Portman, who, at age 19, was playing Princess Leia's mother in Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones (2002).

Gene Kelly choreographed his dance scenes with Cyd Charisse to hide the fact that she was taller than he was. To keep the height difference from being obvious, Kelly arranged the routine so that they were never both standing upright when they were next to each other, always bending toward (or away from) one another instead.