

The Original Dancing Star Wows in Public TV Debut

“MITZI GAYNOR: RAZZLE DAZZLE! The Special Years”

– A Celebration of Her Emmy®-winning Original Classic TV Specials –

Before there was *Dancing with the Stars*, there was Mitzi Gaynor—television’s original star dancer! From 1968 to 1978, Gaynor dazzled audiences with her annual, award-winning, network TV variety spectaculars – averaging over 30 million viewers each – showcasing the singing, dancing and comedic talents that made her a star in the theatre, film, television, nightclub and concert worlds. Now, in honor of the 40th anniversary of Gaynor’s first televised special (*Mitzi*, NBC, 1968) and the 50th anniversary of her signature, Golden Globe-nominated performance in the blockbuster 1958 film Rodgers & Hammerstein's *South Pacific*, **WLIW New York presents the premiere of MITZI GAYNOR: RAZZLE DAZZLE! THE SPECIAL YEARS nationwide on public television December 2008 (check local listings).**

The ultimate collection of song and dance performances from Gaynor's classic network television specials – unseen for three decades – **MITZI GAYNOR: RAZZLE DAZZLE! THE SPECIAL YEARS** is a new documentary that celebrates a landmark career through new interviews with Mitzi, world-renowned, Emmy®-winning costume designer **Bob Mackie**, nine-time Emmy® Award-winning comedy legend **Carl Reiner**, Tony-winner **Kristin Chenoweth** (*Pushing Daisies*, *Wicked*), best-selling author and critic **Rex Reed**, director/choreographer **Tony Charmoli**, dancers **Alton Ruff** and **Randy Doney** (who performed with Mitzi on the road and in her TV specials), and Tony nominee **Kelli O'Hara**, currently starring on Broadway as "Nellie Forbush" in the 2008 Tony Award®-winning revival of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *South Pacific*, the role made famous by Gaynor on the silver screen. Songs include George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue,” Cole Porter’s “DeLovely,” Stevie Wonder’s “You are the Sunshine of My Life,” Kander and Ebb’s “Me and My Baby” and Leonard Bernstein, Betty Comden and Adolph Green’s “I Can Cook, Too.”

MITZI GAYNOR: RAZZLE DAZZLE! THE SPECIAL YEARS provides a reflective and entertaining glimpse into the television variety show at its zenith, taking viewers on a nostalgic trip through Gaynor’s TV years: the groundbreaking performances, glitzy costumes and Mitzi’s triple threat talent as illustrated in digitally remastered clips, rare photos and footage from Gaynor's personal archive, which illuminate the behind-the-scenes

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stories and impact of these 17-time Emmy®-nominated and 6-time Emmy®-winning TV milestones. Memorable moments with special guest stars include a soft-shoe with **Bob Hope**; **Michael Landon** joining Mitzi on Cole Porter's "DeLovely;" "I'm Hip" with **Benny Goodman**; and Leiber and Stoller's "I'm a Woman" with **Jane Withers** and **Suzanne Pleshette**. Among the classic performances featured in the documentary are numbers choreographed by some of the film and theatrical dance world's most influential choreographers, including Peter Gennaro (Tony-winner for *Annie*, and co-choreographer with Jerome Robbins for *West Side Story*), Danny Daniels (Tony-winner, *The Tap Dance Kid*), Robert Sidney (*The Dean Martin Show*) and Tony Charmoli (*Woman of the Year*).

An exclusive public TV edition of the program's companion DVD will be available to public television supporters, and features over an hour of bonus material as well as four extra performances not available anywhere else ("Everybody Loves My Baby" and "Love is Blue" from 1968's *Mitzi*, "The Charleston" from 1976's *Mitzi...Roarin' In the 20s*, and "Camptown Races / Waiting for the Robert E. Lee" from 1975's *Mitzi...And 100 Guys*).

Gaynor is currently rehearsing her new one-woman song and dance extravaganza, *Razzle Dazzle: My Life Behind the Sequins*, and will tour the U.S. and Canada throughout 2009. For more information, visit: www.missmitzigaynor.com.

"Mitzi Gaynor: Razzle Dazzle! The Special Years" Performance List

- "Let Go" (Written by Norman Gimbel, Baden Powell & Vincius De Moraes)
- "Everybody Loves My Baby" (Written by Jack Palmer & Spencer Williams)
- "Pretty" (Written by Robert Florence and Gail Irene Christensen)
- "Love is Blue" (Written by Bryan Andre Blackburn, Pierre Louis Lemaire & Andre Charles Jean Popp)
- "Mr. Melody" (Written by Charles Henry Jackson & Marvin Jerome Yancy)
- "Sir Duke" (Written by Stevie Wonder)
- "Long Ago & Far Away" (Written by Ira Gershwin & Jerome Kern)
- "Married" (Written by John Kander & Fred Ebb)
- "Boogie on Down" (Written by Jimmy McCracklin)
- "I Can Cook, Too" (Written by Leonard Bernstein, Betty Comden & Adolph Green)
- "The Charleston" (Written by Mack Cecil & James Johnson)
- "Rhapsody in Blue" (Written by George Gershwin)
- "I Got the Music In Me" (Written by Phillip Flores, Joseph Iacune & Jeffrey Stepek)
- "You Make Me Feel Like Dancing" (Written by Vincent Poncia & Gerard Hugh Sayer)
- "Dance" (Written by Jerry Leiber & Mike Stoller)
- "DeLovely" - Mitzi Gaynor and Michael Landon (Written by Cole Porter)
- "I'm a Woman" - Mitzi Gaynor, Suzanne Pleshette and Jane Withers (Written by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller)
- "Has Anyone Seen My Gal?" (Written by Ray Henderson, Samuel Lewis and Joseph Young)
- "Tango of Dreams" (Written by Jean Carwald, Edouard van Malderen & Carol Raven)
- "Me & My Baby" - Mitzi Gaynor and Ken Berry (Written by John Kander & Fred Ebb)
- "I'm Hip" - Mitzi Gaynor and Benny Goodman (Written by David Frishberg)
- "New Orleans Hop Scop Blues" - Mitzi Gaynor and Linda Hopkins (Written by George W. Thomas)
- "Dance, Dance, Dance" (Written by Bernard Edwards, Nile Rodgers & Kenneth Lehman)
- "Up a Lazy River" (Written by Hoagy Carmichael & Sidney Arodin)
- "Swingtown" (Written by Steve Miller and Chris McCarthy)
- "Oh My, My" (Written by Ringo Starr & Vincent Poncia Jr.)
- "Deep Purple" (Written by Peter De Rose & Mitchell Parish)
- "You Are the Sunshine of My Life" (Written by Stevie Wonder)

Producer: City Lights Pictures, New York in association with Green Isle, Inc. Executive Producer: Sal Scamardo. Writer/Producers: Rene Reyes, Shane Rosamonda, Annette Jolles, David Stern. Edited by: Jennifer Matson. Presented nationally by WLIW New York. ST and CC.