

“Gypsy” (Original Cast Recording) (1959)

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Essay by Tyne Daly (guest post)*



Ethel Merman in “Gypsy”

Merman. I saw her in 1959 maybe as a birthday present from my parents. By 13, all I wanted for gifts were theatre tickets. My dad had good actor connections. In those days my sisters and friends and I all memorized entire musical scores and contested constantly over lyrics and spent a lot of hours putting the needle back on the exhausted LP to verify.

I had a long struggle with the ghost of Miss Merman’s entirely unique sound. This story was “made on” her by the smartest and best talents Broadway enjoyed in 1959 and, in 1989, those creators were still protecting and perfecting their combined mastery.

I am forever grateful to have experienced playing and working with all of the people involved in our production, most especially, Ethel Merman. Even in absentia, she is an original Broadway muse.

Tyne Daly is an Emmy and Tony Award winning actress and singer who played the role of Mama Rose in a Broadway revival of “Gypsy” in 1989.

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