

SUNDAY NEWS

TV WEEK

JUNE 28 - JULY 4, 1970



LIZA MINNELLI IN "LIZA" -
A MONDAY NIGHT SPECIAL

Liza's Special Recalls Music's "Good Old Days"

Dispensing with the comedy sketches that seem to be standard fare for all specials, Liza Minnelli will spearhead an all song and dance salute to show business Monday, June 29, at 8 p.m. on the NBC Television Network.

Titled simply "Liza," the one-hour color special will feature more than two dozen tunes. Actors Anthony Newley and Michael J. Pollard and song-writing singers Jimmy Webb and Randy Newman guest star in the colorcast, which spotlights segments devoted to Broadway, movies, vaudeville, and contemporary music.

Liza sets the theme of the show by singing "Tradition" and "Let Me Sing and I'll Be Happy," indicating that she is following the show business tradition bestowed upon her by mother Judy Garland and father Vincente Minnelli.

In one segment, the young entertainer lets go with Broadway show-stoppers, "the 11 o'clock songs" — "Guys and Dolls," "Shall We Dance," "Hello Dolly," "Cabaret," "Let Me Entertain You," "Let the Sunshine In" — songs the middle-aged set loves, hums, and dances to at the country club.

BIT OF THE OLD

With the assistance of actor-singer Anthony Newley and that deepish, rubber-faced hippie, Michael J. Pollard ("he's basically bats," says Liza fondly), Miss Minnelli goes back to

vaudeville for a little of the old off shoe — something she learned as a child — and then on to more nostalgia — great songs from the movies. The threesome look over mementos at the recent MGM studio auction — a springboard for movie dance numbers — "Singin' in the Rain," "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue," "New York, New York." The productions provide Liza, a



LIZA MINNELLI brings a bit of nostalgia to television on her special Monday night on WGAL-TV 8.

dancing fool, with an opportunity to imitate two of her childhood favorites — Cyd Charisse and Ann Miller.

The scene shifts to the future and what may seem traditional by the year 2025. In this segment, Liza sings hits by current songwriters — guests Jimmy Webb, Randy Newman, Fred Ebb, and John Kander, who perform at the piano. Even these popular songs about the right girl, Dad, and home are strong on tradition and sentiment.

Wrapping up the tuneful hour with a concert spot, Liza sings those rousers that made her mother famous — "You Made Me Love You," "Some of These Days," "My Mammy," "There's No Business Like Show Business."

With a final touch of nostalgia, the orchestra plays a coda of "Over the Rainbow" as Judy Garland's daughter walks off the stage.

Teenagers may call the standards Liza will sing in her special "grandfather music," but the young star, who grew up on them, has a strange affinity for the nostalgic melodies.

Amidst all the Summer reruns, the all-new "Liza" should prove a refreshing, albeit nostalgic, hour of song and dance. The

June 29 airdate for the special came about quite by accident — a motorcycle accident. When NBC decided to sign Miss Minnelli for a one-hour special this season, the star had just fallen off a motorcycle, wrenching her shoulder. This meant she couldn't dance for a while, so the special was put off until late June.

Miss Minnelli, who won an Oscar nomination as Best Actress for her role of Pookie Adams in "The Sterile Cuckoo," couldn't have been more pleased by the late date for it makes the special seem even more out of the ordinary, instead of just one of many one-shot hours scheduled for the Fall and Winter.