

# NEWS



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## BARBRA STREISAND--THEN AND NOW

"They tell me I'll eventually win everything. The Emmy for TV, the Grammy for records, the Tony for Broadway and the Oscar for movies. It would be wonderful to win all those awards, to be rich, to have my name on marquees all over the world. And I guess a lot of these things will happen to me. I kind of feel they will. It could be good or it could be bad, but I'm living all my life one day at a time."

This is what Barbra Streisand told a magazine interviewer before setting foot on the stage in "Funny Girl," before even seeing Hollywood. It has all come to pass, and then some. In the one short decade dating from her smash Broadway opening in "Funny Girl," she's made show business history.

She's come a long way, baby, and it's all been good for the little girl from Brooklyn.

During the filming of her newest motion picture, "Funny Lady," a Rastar Pictures, Inc., production for Columbia Pictures release, Barbra Streisand took a look at herself then and now.

She commented:

"I have a more realistic sense about my work these days. I see it in its proper perspective, its proper importance. Because I don't care as much, my work is better. More relaxed,

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more spontaneous. Oh, I care. For example, if I'm working on an orchestration that is very specific and detailed, then I want it to be right. But once it is right I can go on and sing it on the first take. I don't listen as critically as I used to, which is more like life, not attention paid to every word. If there are some words here or there that I don't particularly like, they don't bother me the way they used to. Before, I'd do 25 takes to get one perfect. Now, I sort of go along with it because there's a kind of flow that everything has that's like a natural rhythm.

"Herb can tell you," she says referring to "Funny Lady" director Herbert Ross. "We'll do a scene, and I'll say to him, 'That's good enough.' And he'll say, 'No, it's not.' It used to be the other way around for me."

Barbra's realistic attitude was much in evidence during the making of "Funny Lady," starring James Caan as Billy Rose and Omar Sharif as Nick Arnstein. It was reunion time for her and Sharif, both reprising their "Funny Girl" roles, and she and Caan, it developed, have matching senses of humor.

"The trouble with those two," Ross observed, "is to get them to stop laughing before going into a serious scene."

A romantic musical comedy-drama, "Funny Lady" is the dramatized chapter in Fanny Brice's life after the "Funny Girl" period. The new film also stars Roddy McDowall, Ben Vereen and Carole Wells. Ray Stark produced from a screenplay by Jay Presson Allen and Arnold Schulman. The music includes hits by Billy Rose and original songs by John Kander and Fred Ebb.

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"The movie was fun," Barbra states. "It was great to be able to combine acting and singing again. It took me many non-musical movies to convince people that I was an actress as well as a singer. Now I feel they accept me as both. After all, music is an extension of acting. Singing is an extension of talking -- just a heightened form of expression."

Her take-it-easier approach also is reflected in her method of learning dialogue.

"I put my lines on a tape recorder," she explains, "and listen to them while being driven back-and-forth to the studio. Sometimes I even sleep while it's on. I don't study or think about the lines beyond this. Most of the time I do things off the top of my head, on my first instinct.

"But it's difficult when you're feeling happy to be asked to produce tears. To do that you have to go looking around inside yourself for something that hurts. I'm not going to work for a while, now that this film is completed. I've discovered a whole life to live away from show business, and this time I like it."

She's got it made. The nice thing is she's aware of her good fortune and is grateful.

"I don't want to change places with anyone," she states. "There are times I crave anonymity, just to be able to experience things on a small, more realistic level. I can't, you know. But still and all, there are great assets, and you can't have everything."

But, Barbra Streisand comes close.