

Topic Page: [Rogers, Ginger \(1911 - 1995\)](#)

Summary Article: **Rogers, Ginger**

From *The Hutchinson Unabridged Encyclopedia with Atlas and Weather Guide*

US actor, dancer, and singer. She worked from the 1930s to the 1950s, often starring with Fred Astaire in such films as *Top Hat* (1935) and *Swing Time* (1936). Her other film work includes *Bachelor Mother* (1939) and *Kitty Foyle* (1940; Academy Award). She later appeared in stage musicals.

Rogers first appeared with Astaire when both had secondary roles in *Flying Down to Rio* (1933). Their dance numbers together made them the most celebrated dance duo in screen history.

Rogers was born in Independence, Missouri. She became a dancer in vaudeville, partly on the strength of winning a charleston competition. From New York nightclub appearances she graduated to Broadway shows, including *Crazy for You* (1930). She moved to Hollywood and had small parts in various films, typically, as in *42nd Street* (1933), as a wisecracking member of the chorus line.

Although Rogers's aspirations to dramatic roles were vindicated by her winning an Academy Award for playing the title role in *Kitty Foyle* (1940), comedy remained her forte, and she seemed more at home in such films as *Roxie Hart* (1942) and *The Major and the Minor* (1942).

In the years after World War II her screen career started to decline. Despite a popularly received reunion with Astaire in *The Barkleys of Broadway* (1949), few of her subsequent films achieved much impact. Her last screen role was as Jean Harlow's mother in the low-budget *Harlow* (1965), but she subsequently enjoyed considerable success in the theatre. Having already starred in US touring productions of such shows as *Annie Get Your Gun*, she took over the lead in 1966 in the Broadway musical *Hello, Dolly!*, and in London in 1969 played the lead in *Mame*.

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Rogers, Ginger

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