



CAROL CHANNING:

Carol and Harry photo by Davis

by David Cohen

One of the most recognized entertainers of all time, Carol Channing who possess a unique voice that runs the gamut from babyish squeals to baritone, was born in Seattle in 1921.

At the age of two weeks, her father an editor of the newspaper had to relocate to San Francisco for his job, a city Carol refers to, as her home town. The city of San Francisco, proclaimed February 25, 2002, to be Carol Channing Day, for her advocacy of gay rights. Carol was crowned a queen for life "a queen is a queen forever" said the celebrity.

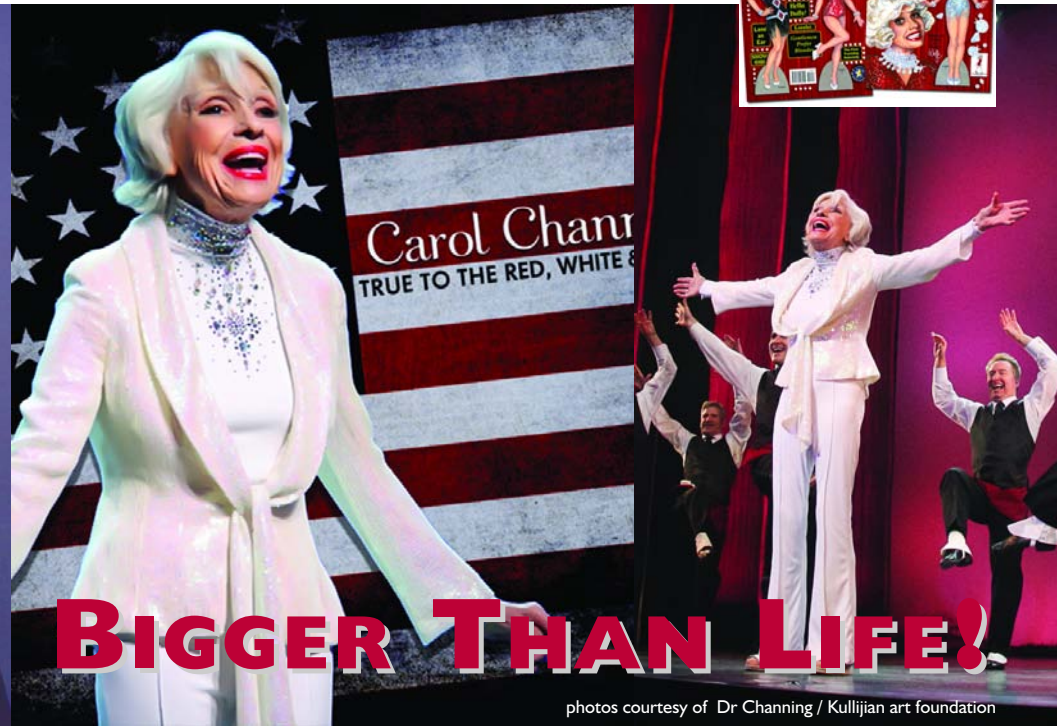
At the age of 90 years, when many women would be happy to just accept accolades for past career achievements and bask in the well earned title of "First Lady of the American Musical Theatre," Carol made the conscious decision to remove the diamonds, set aside the lashes and discard the wigs in order to dedicate the rest of her life, to restore and bring back the arts to where it belongs, "in our country's public schools. Life without art is like having Einstein with no equations." says Carol. Along with her 4th husband Harry Kullijian, her junior high school sweetheart, who reunited with her after 70

years, they both are working together to make sure "Every child should be able to experience art, because it is the creative force of everything we do in life."

Carol made her debut in the chorus of *No for an Answer* in 1941, but her fame was assured when she appeared in *Lend an Ear* in 1948, where her superb comic talents flourished, most notably as a wildly energetic chorus girl in a spoof of 1920s' musicals.

Spotted by author Anita Loos, Carol consolidated her reputation when she essayed the role of Lorelei Lee that brought her to prominence in the musical *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* in 1949. Her signature song from this production, *Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend* made her a star, but unfortunately when she applied to play the same roll in the film version, she lost that role to Marilyn Monroe in the 1952.

In her best well known role as Dolly Gallagher Levi, Channing shined on the Broadway stage making *Hello Dolly* one of the biggest musical blockbuster ever! For this role Channing won the Tony Award in 1964, but she lost this roll to Barbra Streisand in the film version. Channing repeated the *Hello Dolly* production in periodic revivals and eventually toting up over 1,400 performances.



BIGGER THAN LIFE!

photos courtesy of Dr Channing / Kullijian art foundation

Multiple TONY Award winning Director/Producer, Ms. Dori Berinstein, who also produced and directed the award winning documentaries "Gotta Dance" and "Show Business: The Road to Broadway", will release the highly anticipated critically acclaimed documentary entitled "**Carol Channing Larger Than Life**" to main stream theatres nationwide. Featuring a star studded cast of characters who share insights and love for the theatrical icon, including Lily Tomlin, Tyne Daly, Bruce Vilanch, Barbara Walters, Loni Anderson, Tommy Tune, Chita Rivera, JoAnne Worley, Rich Little, Jerry Herman, Debbie Reynolds, Tippi Hedren, Phyllis Diller and many more. The film has many revelations unknown to even some of her most devoted fans, including; her first roommate was none other than the stage and screen actress, Betty Garrett, whose last interview appears in the film, and who points out that their first screen kisses were Frank Sinatra and Clint Eastwood; a battle with ovarian cancer during her tour as Dolly; her heartbreaking losses of cast members to AIDS.

The premiere "Carol Channing: Larger Than Life" is scheduled for a VIP screening on January

18, 2012, at the Paley Center in Los Angeles, and will be hosted by her long time friend Lily Tomlin before the national release on January 20th.

A new collectible paper doll book published by Paper Studio Press and illustrated by artist David Wolfe will feature a trio of dolls, capture the legendary star's sparkling personality, a combination of glamour and comic genius. Costumes from Miss Channing's most famous roles are ready to cut-out and dress the dolls. Among the twenty carefully painted outfits in the book are flapper fashions from *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Modern Millie* and from *Hello, Dolly!*

The new released CD entitled "Carol Channing: True to the Red, White & Blue," includes many of her favorite tunes including *God Bless America*, *Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree* with T Graham Brown, and *America The Beautiful*. It is Ms. Channing's fervent hope that these same songs, will now ignite a sense of pride in the American public and serve again as a call to action for our children. All proceeds from the book and CDs are to benefit Carol's art foundation. For more visit www.ChanningArts.org

