

UNsinkable

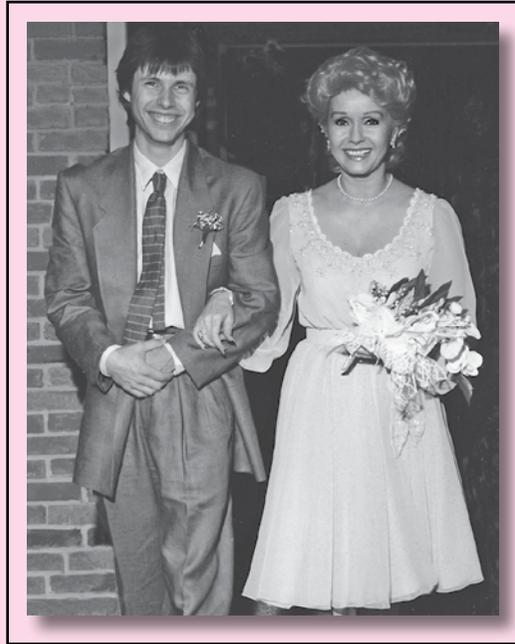
a memoir



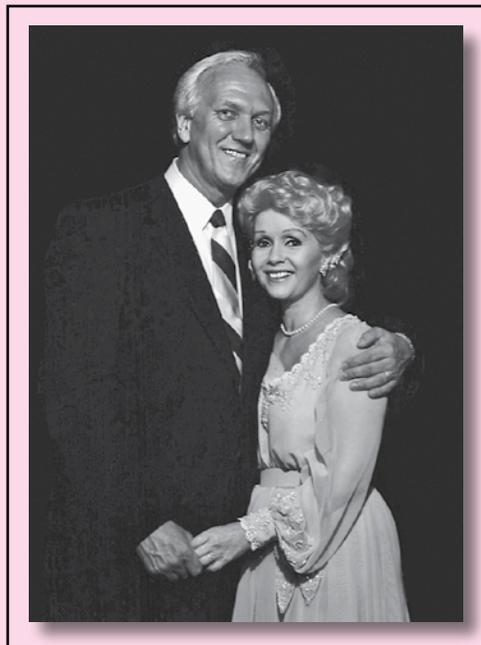
DEBBIE REYNOLDS

and DORIAN HANNAWAY





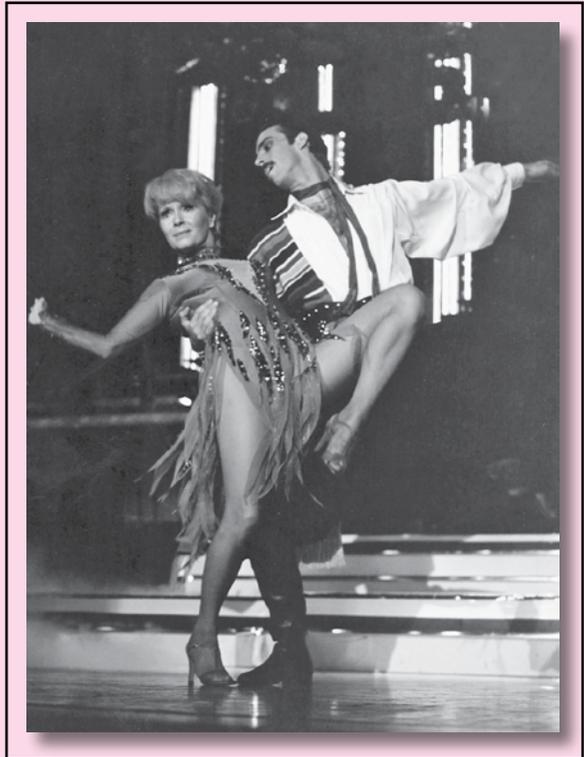
With my best man at the wedding—and in my life—my son,
Todd Fisher.



With my *last* husband.



Onstage with my show,
doing what I know best.





I'm so happy to have this drawing, as I truly loved my little hotel. The Paddlewheel Hotel became the Debbie Reynolds Hotel and Casino.



Todd and me at the Star Theater. This is a jewel of a theater. I loved performing there. Great memories.



Moving day for my collection. George Peppard and Anne Baxter even came down to help us.



The museum at my Las Vegas hotel for my collection—a dream come true.



With the super-talented Albert Brooks. I'm proud of the work we did in *Mother*.



My favorite picture of me with Daddy, at my first wedding in 1955.



With Mother and Grandma Harman when Carrie was a newly born baby.



Carrie; my mother, Maxene; Carrie's daughter, Billie Catherine; and me.



Elizabeth and me on the set of *These Old Broads*. It was like the old days when we were girlfriends on the lot together, young and happy.



With my beautiful daughter, Carrie.



My next attempt at a museum, a beautiful complex in Tennessee. Yet *another* disappointment, with much time and money lost. This drawing of the proposed site was part of a promotional brochure.



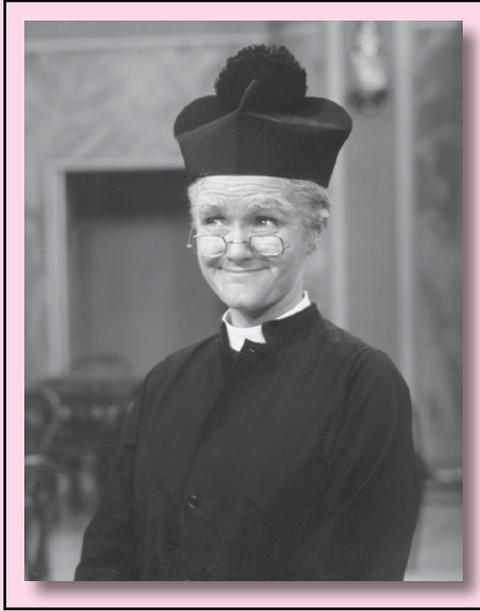
Having a gay old time with Farley Granger (*front row left*); Jack Larson, who played Jimmy Olsen on *Superman* in the 1950s (*standing next to Farley*); Carleton Carpenter (*towering over everyone, as usual*); Shelley Winters (*front row right, kneeling*); and other pals who came to enjoy the new pool I had built at my family's home in Burbank.



Grabbing a bite on the lot at MGM between dance rehearsals for *Singin' in the Rain*—lots of work. Mother packed my lunch when I went to the studio.



With “Uncle Barry” Fitzgerald during *The Catered Affair*.



Dressed as Barry Fitzgerald
for a CBS comedy special
with Frank Gorshin.
Barry taught me how to
impersonate him.



I knew Frances Liberace. She and my mother-in-law, Mrs. Karl, had the same heritage. I felt close to being able to perform her personality quite well. I'm told that I did. I wanted an authentic look to play Lee's mother. She had heavy features and a thick accent. This is what I might look like without the face cream I've used for decades.



Judy Garland enjoying my first speech at the Jewish Home for the Aged. I was so nervous. Judy would have said, "You're doing great, Debbie. Just keep talking, kid. You'll get 'em." Ida Mayer Cummings, the mother of MGM producer Jack Cummings, asked all the MGM stars to help raise funds for the Jewish Home, her favorite charity.



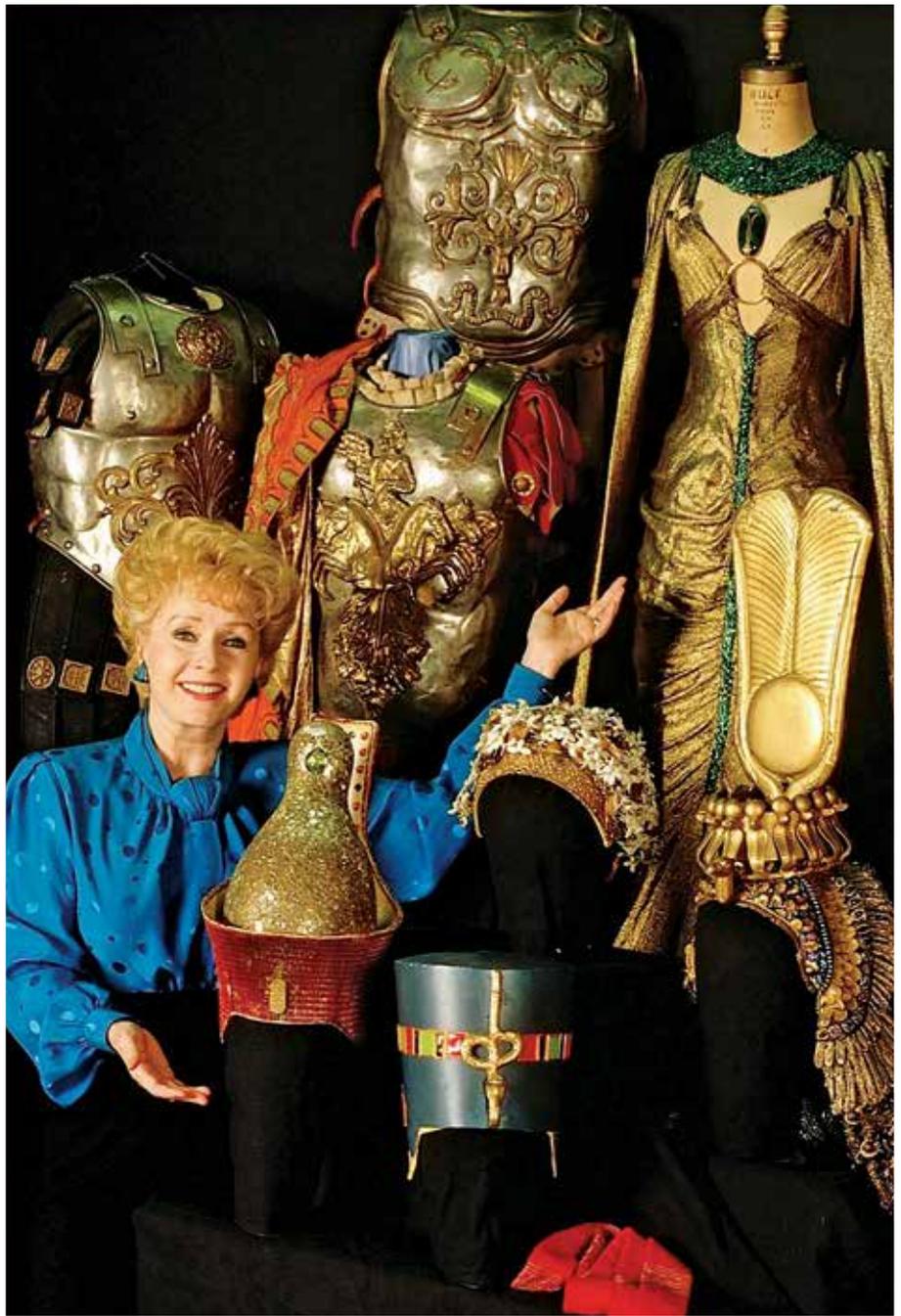
What a beautiful daughter. How blessed am I?



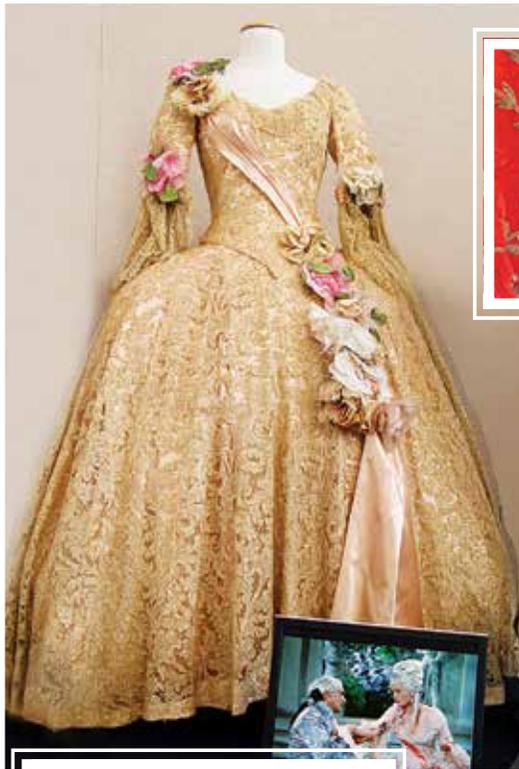
My favorite picture of Todd and me.



Some of the MGM girls get together for lunch:
(back row, left to right) Katherine Grayson, Ann
Miller, Esther Williams, Ann Rutherford;
(kneeling in front) Margaret O'Brian and me.



With some of the treasures from my collection, among them Elizabeth Taylor's headdress and Richard Burton's costume from *Cleopatra* (1963) and Claudette Colbert's costume from *Cleopatra* (1934).



Clockwise: Jean Hagen's gown from *Singin' in the Rain* (1952); the detail on Marlon Brando's cape from *Désireé* (1954); hand-painted suits from the "Fit as a Fiddle" number in *Singin' in the Rain*; Audrey Hepburn's ascot gown from *My Fair Lady* (1964).

Photos by Carol Hannaway





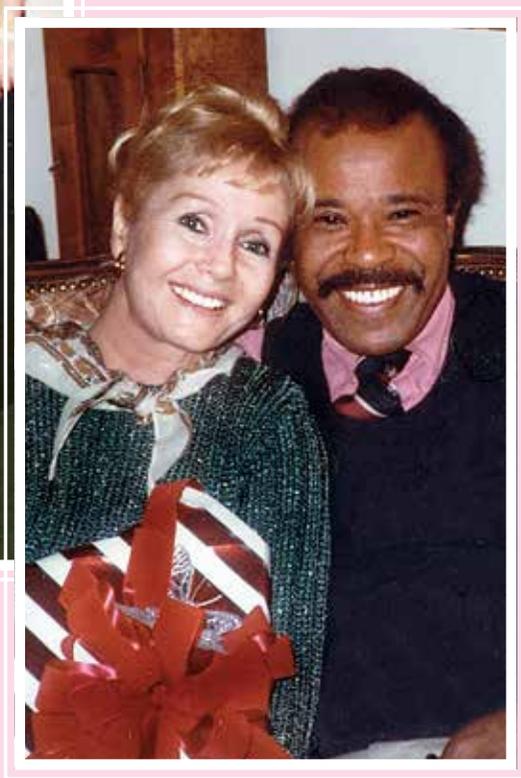
With Jerry Wunderlich, my dear friend and the most brilliant set designer.
He helped me so much at my hotel in Vegas.



With Sydney Guilaroff, the famous MGM hair designer and my special friend. I called him “Father.”



With Margie Duncan.
Margie is like a sister to me
and looks like my twin.



With Rudy Render, who served in the army with
my brother, Bill. He was my pianist for twenty-
five years. Rudy came to live with us in Burbank,
and he never left our home or our hearts.



With my brother, who always has my back.
Everyone calls him “Uncle Bill.”



My two favorite girls: my daughter, Carrie, with her daughter, Billie, at Billie's high school graduation.



With Todd, Catherine, and Carrie on Todd and Catherine's wedding day, December 22, 2012. *Photo by Amie Preston*