**VINCENTE MINNELLI** (b. 28 February, 1903, Chicago, Illinois, USA; d. 25 July 1986, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, California, USA)

Vincente Minnelli’s past career as a designer of display windows in a Chicago department store, stage settings designer for Radio City Music Hall, and Designer-director of Broadway shows contributed to his career as a director of MGM films. In particular, his spectacular artistic vision, use of color, and camera work is put to expressionist use in the lavish MGM musicals produced by the famous Arthur Freed unit. He directed award-winning musicals like *An American in Paris* (1951), *The Band Wagon* (1953), and *Gigi* (1958).

Minnelli’s films are heavily influenced by art nouveau, the early modernism of the impressionists, and surrealists. The long dream ballet in *An American in Paris* is comprised of sequences which include paintings that come to life. These paintings invoke various artists like Toulouse-Lautrec, Dufy, Van Gogh, and Rousseau. Similarly, “The Girl Hunt” ballet in *The Band Wagon* self-reflexively calls attention to the film as entertainment and forces a consideration of high versus low art. Minnelli’s excessive bricolage and stylization, however, pushed the boundaries of his aesthetics and “infuse[d] in his films a camp sensibility” that raises the modernist question about distinguishing mass culture and commercialism from art and authenticity (James Naremore 13).

He married Judy Garland while *Meet Me in St Louis* (1944) was under production and the two had a daughter, Liza Minnelli, the successful contemporary American actress.

**References and further reading:**

Harvey, Stephen (1989). *Directed by Vincente Minnelli*. NY: The Museum of Modern

Art.

Naremore, James (1993). *The Films of Vincent Minnelli*. NY: Cambridge UP.

Silva, Arturo (2005). “Vincente Minnelli’s Dream of Tony Hunter’s Band Wagon’s ‘Girl

Hunt.’” Film Criticism. 30 (1): 2-20.

**Selected Filmography:**

*Cabin in the Sky* (1942)

*Meet Me in St. Louis* (1944)

*The Pirate* (1948)

*An American in Paris* (1951)

*The Bad and the Beautiful* (1952)

*The Band Wagon* (1953)

*Brigadoon* (1954)

*Gigi* (1958)

**Paratextual Material**

* Vincente Minnelli Archives at the Turner Classic Movies database including biography, filmography, archives (production photos, publicity stills, and original movie posters), and videos (contains among others, original trailers for many of his films).

(<http://www.tcm.com/tcmdb/person/132580|151450/Vincente-Minnelli/>)

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