

## = Every Sunday =

Every Sunday ( sometimes incorrectly listed as Every Sunday Afternoon or Opera vs. Jazz ) is a 1936 American short musical film . It tells the story of two young girls and their efforts to save a public concert series , which was being threatened by poor attendance .

Directed by Felix E. Feist , the film served as a screen test for , and is the first significant screen appearance of , two young actresses who would go on to become major stars , Judy Garland and Deanna Durbin . Although only lightly reviewed at the time of its release , the film has garnered a generally positive reputation among Garland biographers .

## = = Plot = =

Small town friends Edna ( Deanna Durbin ) and Judy ( Judy Garland ) are upset . Edna 's grandfather and his orchestra , who play free Sunday concerts at a local park , have been fired by the town council because the concerts are poorly attended . The girls hit upon the idea of singing at the concerts and set about promoting the next concert . The following Sunday Edna and Judy join Granddad on the bandstand . Edna 's operatic style and Judy 's swing bring crowds running from all over the park . The event is a huge success and Granddad 's concerts are saved .

## = = Production = =

Deanna Durbin and Judy Garland were both under contract to Metro @-@ Goldwyn @-@ Mayer but the studio had not put them to work in films . With their contracts coming up for renewal , feelings among studio executives were that the studio didn 't need two girl singers . Every Sunday would serve as an extended screen test to decide which girl 's contract would be renewed .

Durbin recorded the aria Il Bacio for the film . Composers Con Conrad and Herb Magidson wrote a specialty number for Garland , " The Americana . "

Following the screening of the short for MGM executives , opinion was divided on whether Garland or Durbin should be retained . Finally , Louis B. Mayer , upon his return from a European trip , decreed that both girls should be kept . However , Durbin 's contract option had expired by then . She was signed by Universal Studios , where her first picture , Three Smart Girls , was so successful that it saved Universal from bankruptcy .

## = = Critical reception = =

As a short film that served as a second feature , Every Sunday received scant critical attention upon its release . Durbin 's hometown newspaper , the Winnipeg Free Press , did praise the film , lamenting that it was " all too short " and citing Garland as a " girl singer of distinction . "

Garland biographers , when discussing the film in any detail , are generally complimentary both to the film and to Garland . " Unpretentious and fascinating ... Every Sunday gives us a marvelous glimpse of Judy 's talent in an unrefined state " is a typical comment , with the film " reveal [ ing ] how accomplished a performer Judy Garland already was at fourteen . " Durbin does not fare quite as well . Although described by one biographer as appearing " relaxed " and " happy " on film others dismiss her " diffidence " and call her " stiff . "