

**Join ADSW and ADSNY
for the Virtual Program
Astaire, Rogers, and the Art Deco Dream**

Fred Eleanor
ASTAIRE★POWELL

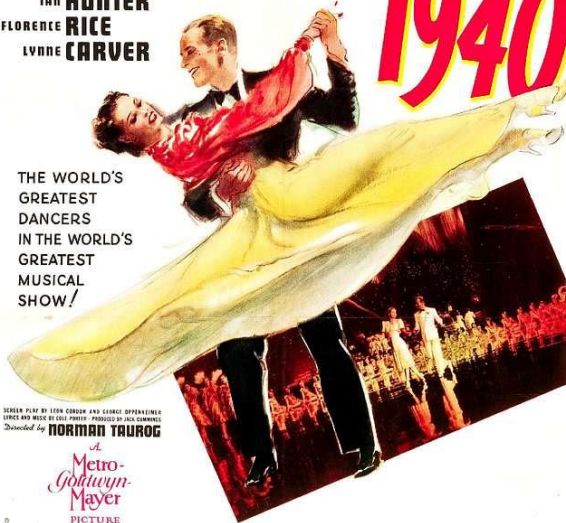
**BROADWAY
MELODY OF
1940**

with **MURPHY**
FRANK MORGAN
and **HUNTER**
Florence **RICE**
Lyne **CARVER**

THE WORLD'S
GREATEST
DANCERS
IN THE WORLD'S
GREATEST
MUSICAL
SHOW!

LIBRETTO BY LYNN COBBEN AND LYNNER DEWINTER
MUSIC BY COLLE PORTER • PRODUCED BY JACK CARMICHAEL
Directed by **NORMAN TAUROG**

A
**Metro-
Goldwyn-
Mayer**
PICTURE





Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers embodied the Art Deco aesthetic and sensibility translated into dance. They offered perfect escapism during the Great Depression through their sleek dancing on elegant black and white sets. Fred's white tie and tails and Ginger's elegant gowns were the Moderne aesthetic in fashion in the fantastical wonderland their movies created. These were usually urban movies in which even the floors gleamed. They were, in a word, modern, as the oxymoron of the cool and the romantic makes Art Deco the perfect setting for their dances.



About the Presenter

Michael Lasser is a writer, speaker, and critic. He is the author of three books: *America's Songs: The Stories Behind the Songs of Broadway, Hollywood, and Tin Pan Alley* (co-written with Philip Furia), *America's Songs II: From the 1890s to the Post-War Years*, and *City Songs and American Life, 1900-*

1950. From 1980-2021, he was the host of the nationally syndicated public radio show, Fascinatín' Rhythm, winner of a 1994 Peabody Award. A graduate of Dartmouth College, he is the former theater critic for the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle, and for 35 years has spoken and performed at museums, universities, and performing arts centers around the country. He currently appears in performance with singers Jessica Ann Best and Alan Jones. In 2010, he was named a Thomas P. Johnson Distinguished Visiting Scholar at Rollins College, and was also a visiting scholar at Waterford School in Salt Lake City and Trevor Day School in New York City. He is currently at work on two books on American music, tentatively titled I Hear America's Song: Popular Music and American Identity and What's Great About the Great American Songbook.



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