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BELLS ARE RINGING

(1960) MGM. Prod: Arthur Freed. Scr: Betty Comden and Adolph Green, from their musical play with music by Jule Styne. Photog. (CinemaScope and Metrocolor): Milton Krasner. Ed: Adrienne Fazan. Art Dir: George W. Davis, Preston Ames. Set Decor: Henry Grace, Keogh Gleason. Cost: Walter Plunkett. Music Dir: Andre Previn. Choreog: Charles O'Curran. SONGS: "Bells Are Ringing," "It's A Perfect Relationship," "Hello," "It's a Simple Little System," "Do It Yourself," "Better Than a Dream," "Mu Cha Cha," "Just in Time." "Long Before I Knew You," "Drop That Name," "The Party's Over," "The Midas Touch," "I'm Goin' Back" (mus: Jule Styne, lyr: Betty Comden and Adolph Green). CAST: Judy Holliday (Ella Peterson), Dean Martin (Jeffrey Moss), Fred Clark (Larry Hastings), Eddie Foy, Jr. (J. Otto Prantz), Jean Stapleton (Sue), Ruth Storey (Gwynne), Dort Clark (Inspector Barnes), Frank Gorshin (Blake Barton), Ralph Roberts (Francis), Valerie Allen (Olga), Bernie West (Dr. Joe Kitchell), Gerry Mulligan (Ella's blind date). 126 minutes.

Vincente Minnelli: "...Since the book written by Adolph Green and Betty Comden was near-perfect, their main challenge in adapting the picture to the screen was to rephrase it in cinematic terms. Adolph feels I kept more things from the show than I might have, but I disagree. Adding fluidity to the essential stage components seemed a logical approach... Judy's performance was an easy transition from her stage role, even though she was like Astaire in thinking she wasn't doing it right...Dean Martin, on the other hand, would rather die than have you believe he

cared. He wasn't particularly challenged by the part of the writer. But what he did was done amusingly and well."

The World Of Entertainment (Hugh Fordin): "From the start of principal photography...until the day it closed...it was one constant struggle. Holliday came to Plunkett (the costume designer) dissolved in tears; she thought she looked terrible, she was gaining weight from day to day, she was all wrong for the part. 'She wanted to pay Metro for all the expenses on the film up to that day,' says Plunkett, 'and let them recast it with someone else...she just couldn't do it.' Minnelli constantly tried reassuring her. 'And then,' he says, 'she had a fight with — of all people — Comden and Green, because she felt they hadn't changed the script enough to make it cinematic. Well, that caused a situation between them and Arthur, since they were always joined at the hip'..There were more than the normal mishaps and absences with Judy: laryngitis, a kidney infection, a suitcase fell on her leg, then came a bladder infection. As part of the action in a scene she was required to walk across the room with the back of her dress on fire. The igniting apparatus became overheated and her skin was burned. With all of this, coupled with her feeling of insecurity, she was miserably unhappy throughout production."

