

## Caroline O'Connor – Star of Stage and Screen

Caroline O'Connor was born in 1962 and is an Australian dancer, singer and actress.

O'Connor was born in Oldham, Lancashire England to Irish parents and was subsequently raised and trained in Sydney, Australia. She trained at the Royal Ballet School in London.

O'Connor's film work includes the featured role of *Nini Legs in the Air* in Baz Luhrmann's film *Moulin Rouge* and as *Ethel Merman* in the Cole Porter biopic *De-Lovely*. She also featured on the *De-Lovely* soundtrack, singing *Anything Goes*.

In 2003 O'Connor made her Broadway debut as *Velma Kelly* in *Chicago*. Her West End Theatre performances include *Mabel* in *Mack & Mabel* for which she received an Olivier nomination for Best Actress in a Musical. O'Connor was a member of the original 1986 revival cast of *Me and My Girl* at the Adelphi Theatre.

O'Connor's other UK theatre credits include *A Chorus Line*, *Hold on tight it's 60's Night*, *Chicago*, *Dawn Yankees*, *West Side Story* and as *Ellie May* in *Showboat* for the Royal Shakespeare Company and Opera North.

In 1998, O'Connor returned to Australia as *Velma Kelly* in *Chicago* for which she won a Green Room Award and the Mo Award for Female Musical Theatre Performer of the Year. Other Australian productions include the one woman play *Bombshells* written especially for Caroline O'Connor by playwright Joanna Murray-Smith, *West Side Story*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Oklahoma* and concert productions of *Funny Girl* and *Mack & Mabel*. She has since filmed *Bombshells* for ABC Television. Her portrayal of *Edith Piaf* in Pam Gems's *A Tribute to Piaf* gained her three Australian theatre awards.

*Bombshells* toured to sell-out performances at the Edinburgh Festival (where she won the coveted Fringe First Award), London's West End at the Arts Theatre (for which she received her second Laurence Olivier Award nomination), and at the World Stage Festival in Toronto, Canada. O'Connor starred as Judy Garland in the 2005 world premiere of Peter Quilter's play *End of the Rainbow* at the Sydney Opera House. Following its Sydney and Melbourne seasons, Caroline recorded the CD *A Tribute to Judy Garland*, and reprised her Helpmann Award winning role in Sydney at the Theatre Royal in 2006.

She starred in the premiere production of the musical *The Hatpin*, which opened in Sydney on 27 February 2008 to critical acclaim. In June 2008, she played the title role—a role specifically written for O'Connor—in the premiere of David Williamson's 2008 play *Scarlett O'Hara at the Crimson Parrot* at the Melbourne Theatre Company.

O'Connor has recorded four solo CDs (*What I Did For Love*, *A Tribute To Piaf*, *From Stage to Screen*, *A Tribute to Garland*), and has featured on numerous cast recordings and compilations.