

# Brice, Fanny (1891-1951) Encyclopedia Article

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## Brice, Fanny (1891-1951)

One of the funniest women of her (or any other) day, singer and comedienne Fanny Brice starred in the *Ziegfeld Follies* for thirteen years becoming, in the process, one of America's most famous women. Combining innate comic talent with a great singing voice, Fanny was a vaudeville star when still a teenager. After signing with Florenz Ziegfeld at nineteen, Brice performed in all but two of the *Ziegfeld Follies* from 1910 to 1923. With her signature song, *My Man*, Brice went on to star on Broadway; she also appeared in eight films. But she was best known around the world as radio's *Baby Snooks*. Married to gambler Nick Arnstein and producer Billy Rose, Brice's life became the subject of the Broadway musical and 1968 film, *Funny Girl*, and its 1975 sequel, *Funny Lady*, starring Barbra Streisand. Her comic legacy—always a lady, Brice nonetheless shocked her audiences with her raunchy humor—is carried on by such contemporary comediennes as Joan Rivers and Bette Midler.

### Further Reading:

Grossman, Barbara W. *Funny Woman: The Life and Times of Fanny Brice*. Indianapolis, Indiana University Press, 1992.

Katkov, Norman. *The Fabulous Fanny: The Story of Fanny Brice*. New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1953.