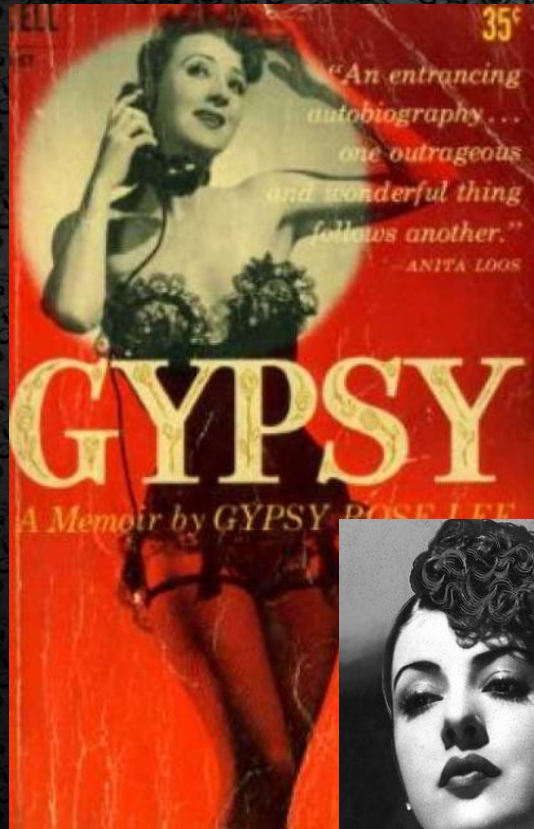




GYPSY.

A MUSICAL FABLE

The Beginning of Gypsy Rose Lee



Gypsy Rose Lee, born Rose Louise Hovick, was an American burlesque dancer that was the most famous striptease artist that ever lived. She and her sister June were dragged around as child performers by their mother and used fake birth certificates to keep her daughters working. Gypsy was pushed into burlesque as a last resort when she was on the verge of destitution with her mother. She was famous because her act was all about the “tease” and focused more on her intellectual wit. She became a powerful force in American popular culture during the 1930’s - 1940’s. She made a name for herself as a “high class stripper” and she referred to herself as a lady. She was particularly fond of the term ecdysiast. She was always adamant that the profession was referred to with dignity. Many still praise her today that she brought the art back to stripping. Her book *Gypsy A Memoir by Gypsy Rose Lee* inspired the musical and was adapted in 1959 into *Gypsy: A Musical Fable*.

GYPSY: A MUSICAL

Gypsy: A Musical Fable is a story of a show mother, Rose, who is adamant her two daughters get into show business and become famous. Throughout their childhood she has them perform the same routine over and over again "Baby June and her Newsboys" and the girls never get any education. Louis is treated as less important and is made to perform as one of the newsboys as Rose focuses all her attention on June. They meet Herbie, a retired agent who comes out of retirement to manage the girls and for his desire to marry Rose. The act gets exhausted and the girls grow up. Tired of the life they have been forced into, June elopes with Tulsa, one of the newsboys from their act. Rose is devastated her daughter would abandon her and focuses all her attention on Louise to make her a star. Louis lacks the talent and eventually ends up in a Burlesque house by mistake and her mother convinces her she could do it she could be a lady and be classy and be a stripper. Herbie leaves and refuses to be apart of Rose's life anymore he cannot watch what she is doing to her daughter. Louise gains a stage name and Gypsy Rose Lee is born and she becomes a very famous striptease artist. Her mother continues to try to manage her career, eventually though, even Gypsy tries to push her away. Rose realizes as she is alone and people have left her that she really did it all for herself because she was never able to become a star.

1920's - 1930's

1920's - Era when bodices became looser and waistlines dropped. Hemlines continued to get shorter as women gained a sense of independence. They often had a V or scoop neck and were made from chiffon, silk, velvet, light wool and cotton. The dresses were often embellished with a sash or beading. In 1926, the fashion moved into the "flapper" style during the Roaring Twenties. This was a time where they took that loose bodice and decorated with panels and expensive hand beading was popular. It was in 1928 that the hemline was positioned at the knees, the previously shorter ones had been deemed indecent. Men began to abandon the formal day wear and wore less formal suits and athletic wear became popular.

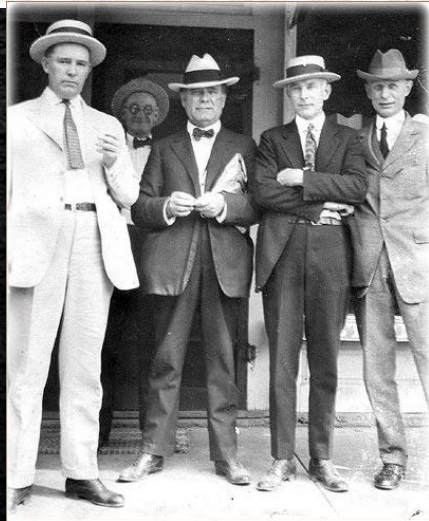
1930's - Moving out of the 1920's, the 1930's began to rise the waist to the original spot and they began to lengthen their hemlines but maintain the relaxed fit. There was even an emergence of asymmetrical hemlines during this time. Designers began to experiment with fabrics became more form fitting. The bias cut gown became very popular for evenings in silk velvet or silk satin. The trend spread to Europe and the bias cut gown in white silk became very popular. Costume jewelry also became very popular as a result of the Chanel faux pearl strands. Fashion icons really emerged during this time and specifically there was a Hollywood craze and people tried to look like their favorite movie stars. Fashion in Hollywood became a staple during the 1930's and looks like the bias cut gown, garden dresses with large hats, and grand negligee. Men wore wide padded shoulder jackets with peaked lapels and the trench coat became popular.

1920's

1930's



1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929



458

chanel

GYPSY: A MUSICAL FABLE CONCEPT

The concept for this show is hidden desires and lost relationships. Each character has a desire that they desperately want. June wants to be a serious actress. Louise wants to be pretty and seen. Herbie wants to marry Rose. Tulsa wants his own performance. Rose wants to make her daughters succeed but really she wants the fame, etc. We want to emphasise those desires and focus on relationships between the characters.

Addition of an opening scene of a black and white film styled scene that is portraying Gypsy at the height of her career as a stripper. Audience will hear dialogue like an announcer presenting Gypsy then hear letters being read by Mama Rose about how Gypsy betrayed her. This will give the audience a glimpse into what will happen with Rose's relationship with everyone as the show opens on the first scene of the girls in the vaudeville talent show. Want the audience to think how did Rose get from this to a daughter in Burlesque and estranged from the other daughter.




UNCLE JOCKO

UNCLE JOCKO

Uncle Jocko the master of ceremonies over vaudeville a performance circuit where he specializes in child talent shows.. He is an eccentric oily man, a raging alcoholic, and dishonest. He is exhausted working with child performers and their mothers and would rather just drink. At auditions he already has selected a winner based on bribes he has received. Mama Rose scolds him for being unfair and demands he gives her girls a chance.. He is described as wearing a Tartan cap and horn rimmed glasses. Act 1 Scene 1.

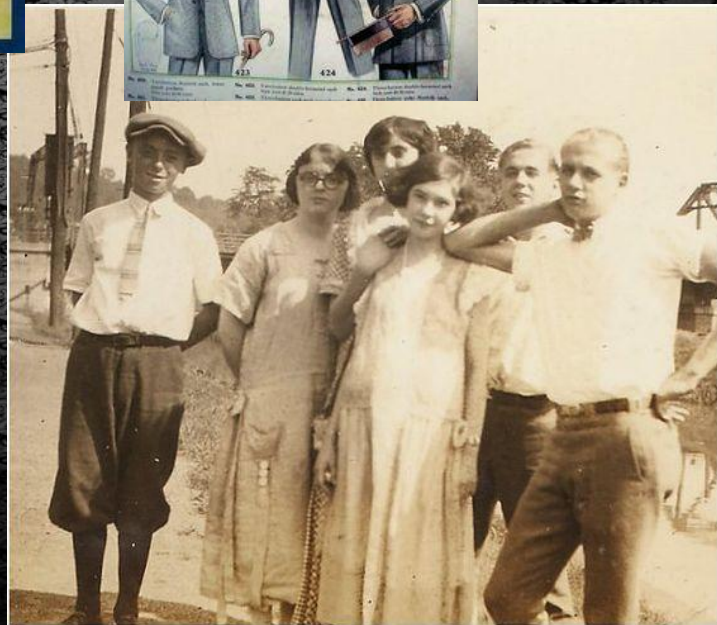




TULSA

TULSA

Tulsa is a performer, a singer and a tap dancer and one of Mama Rose's "Newsboys" and "Farm Boys." He has been performing for her his whole childhood but he dreams of having his own act where he can dance with a pretty girl. He is ambitious and believes he will have a career after Mama Rose. He is very charming and a typical "boy next door" which gained him the affections of Louis and June. Tulsa elopes with June to go start their own act away from Mama Rose's control. Act 1 Scene 10 Tulsa is practicing his imaginary act and is caught by Herbie and Louise.





HERBIE

HERBIE

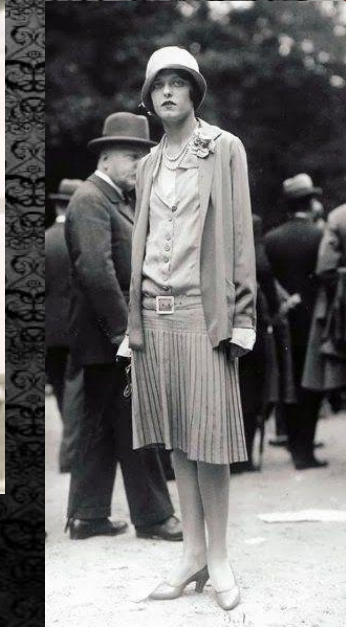
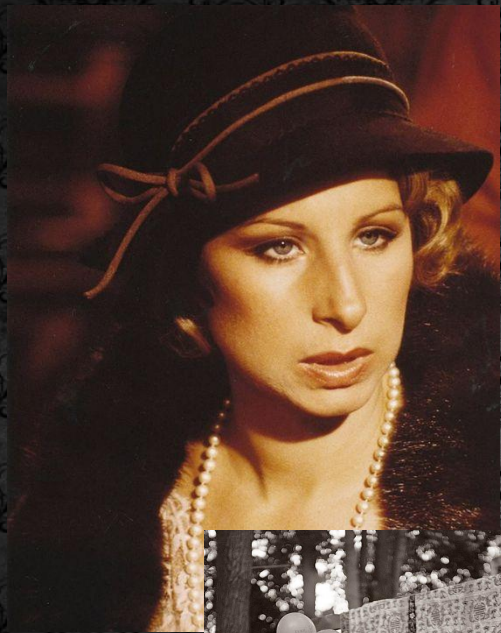
Herbie is a retired manager who works in the candy business until he meets Mama Rose that convinces him to reluctantly come out of a retirement for her. He is a well tempered gentleman and is very classy. He is very loving and patient. He puts up with Rose's crazy escapades because he loves her and the girls and wants to marry Rose. He keeps allowing himself to be dragged along by Rose because he wants so much to marry her and she continues to tell him she will as soon as the girls are stars. He puts up with a lot when the girls are grown he begins to lose his patience because the girls haven't gotten any education and it doesn't seem like they will ever become stars. The moment Rose pushes Louise into Burlesque Herbie refuses to be apart of that and finally leaves them. Act 1 Scene 4 He meets Rose



MAMMA ROSE

MAMA ROSE

Rose is an overbearing stage mother that is very determined and domineering. She aggressively pushes her daughters into show business. She is a charismatic woman that isn't afraid to get her hands dirty and push for what she wants. She is determined to make her daughter's into the stars she never got to be. She pushes them to the point where the girls are suffocating under her and June and the boys abandon her. Herbie leaves her, and only Louise stays by her side as Rose pushes her into the world of Burlesque. When Gypsy rises to fame she eventually pushes Rose away. She is confident and has done just fine for herself and no longer wants Rose determining her actions. Rose is left alone and finally admits she did it all because she wanted to be famous but never could. Now her family has left her and she doesn't have anyone and it's a painful realization. She has a strong determined personality though and convinces herself she can make it through, Gypsy still stays by her side. Act 2 Scene



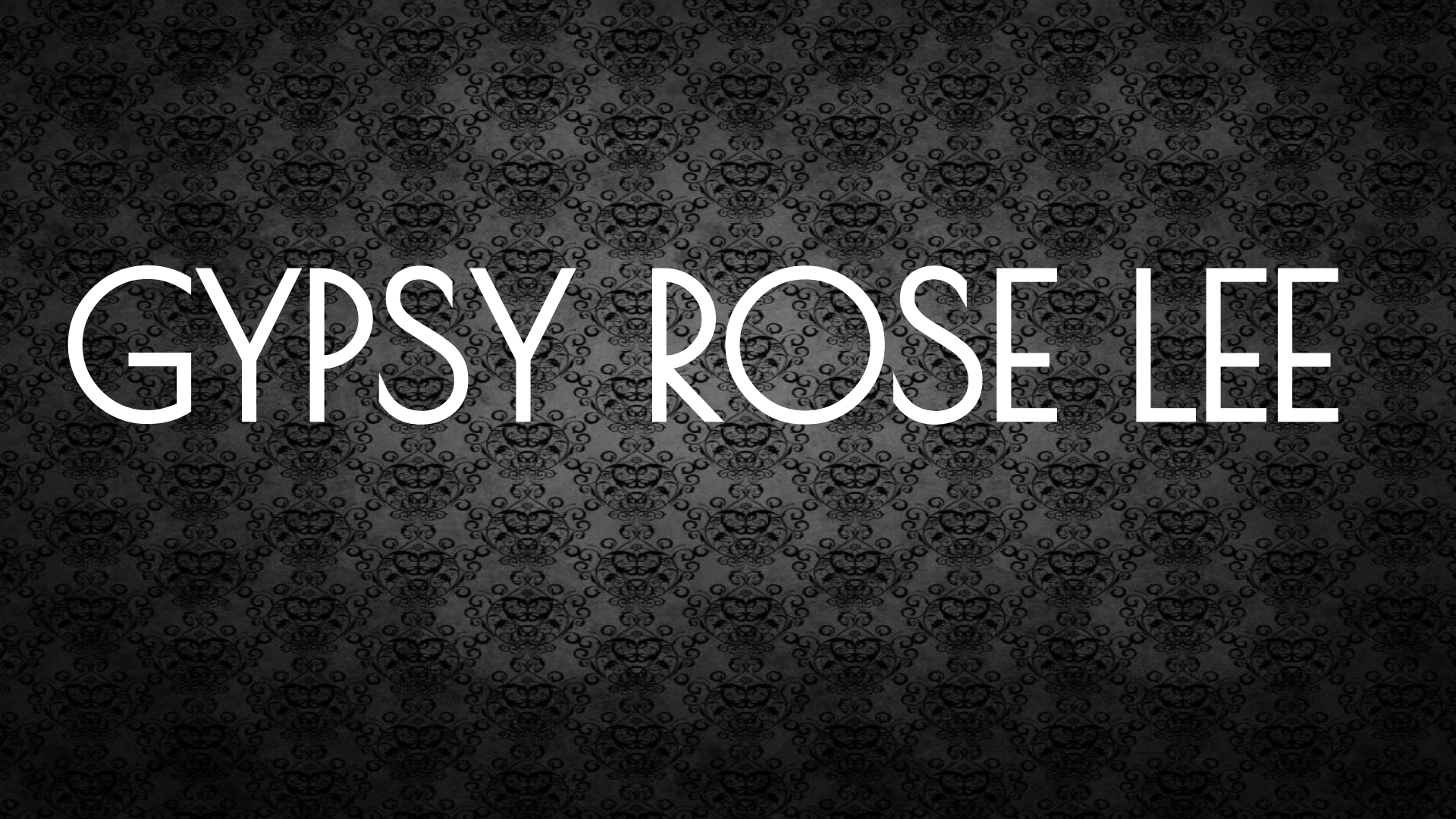


LOUISE

LOUISE

Louise is a shy introverted girl that performs along with her sister June for their mother. Louise is loyal to a fault and is the one that stays with Rose the longest. She becomes damaged from years of being told she wasn't as talented as her younger sister June. Rose made her dress as a boy and dance with the boys in the act. Louise just wants to be pretty and seen. She becomes a skilled costume maker and creates all the costumes for the child act. Her sister June abandons them when she cannot take it anymore. Rose insists Louise is talented now and she must become a star. Louise struggles she doesn't think she has talent. When Rose pushes her into Burlesque she discovers she is beautiful and has a talent for stripping and transforms into a new persona of Gypsy Rose Lee. Act 1 Scene 10 dances with tulsie in cow costume.



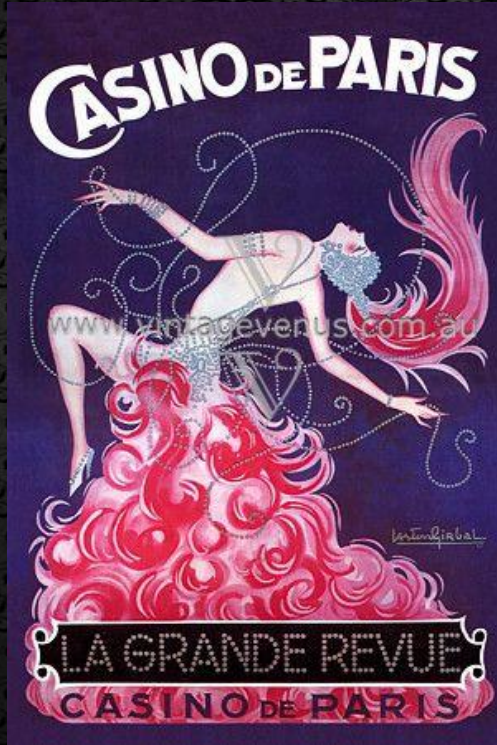



GYPSY ROSE LEE

GYPSY ROSE LEE

Gypsy Rose Lee is a confident and calculating stripper persona that is created by Louise and Rose. Louise is no longer shy and timid because she is Gypsy Rose Lee the most famous striptease artist in the world. She is still painfully aware that she was told she never had talent but for once in her life she feels like she does and feels like she is beautiful. She knows people laugh at her because of what she does as a profession but she accepts it and learns to love the persona of Gypsy. She becomes strong and powerful and she finally has enough courage to tell her mother she doesn't get to be apart of her career as much as she was in her childhood. She still stays by her mother's side but she has taken control of her own life. Act 2 Scene 4 Glittering like a diamond in a sewer. Christmas burlesque







THE END

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