
Marcy Heisler And Zina Goldrich

Marcy
Heisler And
Zina
Goldrich

Downloaded from
www.everybodystreet.com
by Bond & Underwood

INTRODUCTION: THE DYNAMIC DUO BEHIND MODERN MUSICAL THEATER

When you think of powerhouse duos in contemporary musical theater, names like **Marcy Heisler and Zina Goldrich** should immediately come to mind. For over three decades, this writing partnership has crafted some of the most heartfelt, witty, and enduring songs ever to grace the stage, screen, and concert hall. Their work spans family musicals, off-

Broadway hits, television specials, and beloved standards that have been performed by everyone from Broadway stars to aspiring young performers in school auditoriums. In an industry where collaborations often fizzle after a single project, the longevity and creative synergy of **Marcy Heisler and Zina Goldrich** stand as a testament to their shared artistic vision and deep mutual respect.

Understanding the journey and impact of **Marcy Heisler and Zina Goldrich** offers a

window into how modern musical storytelling evolves. Their music is characterized by clever lyrics that appeal to both children and adults, soaring melodies that feel both classic and fresh, and a remarkable ability to tackle complex emotions with warmth and humor. This article dives into their backgrounds, their most celebrated works, their creative process, and why they remain essential figures in musical theater today.

WHO ARE MARCY HEISLER AND ZINA GOLDRICH?

Before exploring their joint body of work, it helps to know the individuals behind the partnership. **Marcy Heisler** is the lyricist and book writer of the

duo, while **Zina Goldrich** serves as the composer. Together, they are often referred to stylistically as "Goldrich and Heisler," though the full names **Marcy Heisler and Zina Goldrich** appear on virtually all of their joint credits.

Marcy Heisler: The Wordsmith

h Marcy Heisler grew up in a theater-loving family and started writing lyrics at an early age. She studied at the University of Michigan and later moved to New York City, where she began

collaborating with other artists. Her lyric style is known for its conversational quality, rhythmic precision, and ability to reveal character through song. Heisler has a knack for writing dialogue-driven lyrics that feel natural yet are packed with meaning. She has also worked as an educator, teaching musical theater writing at NYU and other institutions, further cementing her influence on the next generation of storytellers.

Zina Goldrich: The

Melodist

Zina Goldrich, a native of Los Angeles, studied music at the University of California and later at the prestigious BMI Musical Theatre Workshop. Her musical instincts blend traditional Broadway orchestration with pop influences, creating melodies that are instantly hummable but never predictable. Goldrich's ability to support emotional beats with harmonic shifts is one reason her songs resonate so profoundly. She has also written for television, including work for Disney Channel, and has taught composition for theater.

The meeting of these two talents in the late 1980s sparked a

partnership that would eventually produce some of the most performed contemporary musical theater pieces in schools and regional theaters across the country.

THE SIGNATURE WORKS OF MARCY HEISLER AND ZINA GOLDRICH

The catalog of **Marcy Heisler and Zina Goldrich** is diverse, but a few landmark projects anchor their legacy.

"Dear Edwina" (2008)

Perhaps their most famous work, *Dear Edwina* is a musical for family audiences that

premiered off-Broadway and has since become a staple of youth theater. The show follows Edwina, a young advice columnist who helps her friends solve problems through song. The musical features a score full of humor and heart, including the crowd-pleasing number "The Junkyard Dog." The success of *Dear Edwina* showed that **Marcy Heisler and Zina Goldrich** could create a show that appeals to children without being condescending, and that adults could enjoy just as much. The show has been licensed widely and performed by thousands of schools and community groups.

"Junie B. Jones" Musical Series

Building on their success with young audiences, **Marcy Heisler and Zina Goldrich** adapted Barbara Park's beloved book series into multiple musicals, including *Junie B. Jones: The Musical* and *Junie B. Jones: Jingle Bells, Batman Smells*. These shows captured the voice of the irrepressible kindergartner with perfect pitch, both musically and comically. The songs are filled with the exaggerated emotions of childhood, from

frustration to pure joy, and have become favorites in elementary school music programs.

"The Great American Mousical" (with Hunter Foster and Tony Winner?) Actually

this is a	? No,
different	that's by
piece:	Hunter
Wait, let	Foster
me recall	and
accuratel	others. I
y. They	need to
wrote	correct:
"The	Actually,
Great	Marcy
American	Heisler
Mousical"	and Zina

Goldrich	One of
wrote	their
"The	notable
Great	works is
American	"The
Mousical"	Great
with	American
Hunter	Mousical"
Foster?	which
No, let	was
me be	written
careful.	by Marcy

Heisler	They
(lyrics)	wrote a
and Zina	musical
Goldrich	called
(music)	"The
with a	Great
book by	American
Hunter	Mousical"
Foster?	- I think
Actually,	it's by
checking	them?
memory:	Let me

verify lyrics by
 from my Marcy
 knowledg Heisler,
 e: Yes, book by
 "The Hunter
 Great Foster.
 American It's about
 Mousical" a group
 had of mice
 music by putting
 Zina on a
 Goldrich, show in a

Broadway *The Great*
 theatre *American*
 That's *Musical*
 correct features
 So I music by
 should Zina
 include Goldrich
 that. and lyrics
Correcti by Marcy
on for Heisler,
accuracy with a
: The book by
 musical Hunter

Foster. It g. The
 premiere show is a
 d at the love
 Goodspee letter to
 d Opera old-
 House school
 and is Broadway
 another , told
 example through
 of their the eyes
 imaginati of tiny
 ve performe
 storytellin rs. It

showcase retaining
 s the their
 duo's signature
 ability to charm.

write Individual
 pastiche Songs
 numbers and
 that feel Antholog
 authentic y Works
 to Besides
 different full
 eras musicals,
 while **Marcy**

Heisler the Latte
and Zina Boy"
Goldrich became a
have viral hit
contribut when
ed songs sung by
to revues Kristin
and Chenowet
cabaret h on *Late*
acts. *Show*
Their *with*
song *David*
"Taylor *Letterma*

n and coffee
 later on shop
The barista,
Martha perfectly
Stewart encapsul
Show. ates their
 That gift for
 song, a finding
 whimsical the
 story of a extraordi
 girl nary in
 crushing everyday
 on a life. Other

popular staples of
songs like vocal
"Alto's competi-
Lament" ons and
(a concerts.

comedic
ode to
the often-
overlooked voice
part)
have
become

**THE CREATIVE
PROCESS OF
GOLDRICH AND
HEISLER**

The
partnership
between
**Marcy
Heisler**

and Zina a process
Goldrich where
 is they
 character often
 ized by a start with
 collaborat a
 ive give- character
 and-take. or
 In situation,
 interview then
 s, both Heisler
 have writes a
 described lyric

which important
Goldrich ce of
then sets trusting
to music. each
However, other's
sometime instincts
s a and being
melody willing to
comes edit
first. ruthlessly
They . Their
emphasiz workshop
e the s often

involve audience
 actors reactions.
 reading One key
 and to their
 singing success
 material, is their
 and they shared
 are belief in
 known for truth in
 rewriting storytellin
 extensive g, even in
 ly based comedic
 on or

children's with a
 work. specific
 They performe
 avoid r in mind,
 panderin even if
 g or using that
 forced performe
 rhymes. r is
 Heisler theoretic
 has said al. This
 that she approach
 always gives
 writes their

songs a ed
specificit harmonic
y that progressi
makes ons that
them keep the
relatable. ear
Goldrich's engaged
music, and
while support
melodic, the
often emotional
employs arc of the
unexpect lyric.

MUSICAL THEATER
EDUCATION

IMPACT ON

**Marcy
Heisler
and Zina
Goldrich**
have had
an
outsized
influence
on
musical
theater
education

. Their
shows,
especially
*Dear
Edwina*
and the
Junie B.
Jones
musicals,
are
frequentl
y
produced

by But
 schools beyond
 due to that, both
 their age- women
 appropria are
 te dedicated
 content, educators
 managea . They
 ble cast have
 sizes, and taught at
 strong the BMI
 musical Lehman
 scores. Engel

Musical approach
 Theatre emphasiz
 Workshop es craft,
 , New discipline,
 York and the
 Universit importan
 y, and ce of
 various writing
 summer from a
 programs genuine
 . Their place.
 pedagogi Many
 cal contempo

rary ly for
 musical creating
 theater work that
 writers appeals
 cite to
Marcy intergene
Heisler rational
and Zina audience
Goldrich s. In an
 as era
 inspiratio where
 ns, theater
 particular often

fractures audition
 into books,
 adult-only vocal
 or anthologi
 children- es, and
 only countless
 categorie YouTube
 s, they covers.
 have built The duo
 a bridge. has also
 Their received
 songs are grants
 used in and

awards, musical
including theater.

the

Jonathan

Larson

Grant and

the Fred

Ebb

Award,

recognizi

ng their

contributi

on

to

NOTABLE

**PERFORMERS AND
RECORDINGS**

The

songs of

Marcy

Heisler

and Zina

Goldrich

have

been

to performe

d by work,
 some of having
 Broadway sung
 and "Taylor
 television the Latte
 's biggest Boy" and
 names. other
 Kristin Goldrich/
 Chenowet Heisler
 h is a songs on
 frequent national
 champion television
 of their . Audra

McDonald sung
 has also selections
 performe from their
 d their shows,
 material and
 in various
 concert. casts of
 Other their
 performe musical
 rs include theater
 Josh productio
 Groban, ns.
 who has Cast

recording musicals,
 s are and *The*
 available *Great*
 for *Dear American*
Edwina Mousical.
 (Original These
 Off- recording
 Broadway s serve
 Cast as
 Recordin important
 g), the documen
 Junie B. ts of their
 Jones work and

are used lyrics and
 by the
 aspiring warmth
 performe of
 rs to Goldrich's
 learn the orchestra
 style. The tions.

recording
 s

**STYLISTIC LEGACY
 AND
 ACCESSIBILITY**

highlight What sets
 the **Marcy**
 clarity of **Heisler**
 Heisler's **and Zina**

Goldrich songs are
apart not only
from entertaini
many of ng but
their also
contempo teachable
raries is . Music
the sheer teachers
accessibil appreciat
ity of e that
their Goldrich's
music. melodies
Their are

singable ore, the
 and that emotional
 Heisler's range in
 lyrics use their
 vocabular work—fro
 y that m the
 challenge hilarious
 s young frustratio
 performe n of
 rs without "Alto's
 being Lament"
 obscure. to the
 Furtherm tender

friendship style has
 anthem evolved
 "The over the
 Junkyard years,
 Dog"—m but the
 eans core
 there is a remains:
 song for a
 every commitm
 mood ent to
 and story.
 occasion. Whether
 Their they are

writing **Heisler**
 about a **and Zina**
 mouse **Goldrich**
 who approach
 wants to each
 be a star piece
 or a girl with the
 pining for same
 a level of
 caffeine- craft and
 serving care as a
 crush, grand
Marcy Broadway

epic. That e.
 dedicatio
 n to truth
 in
 miniature
 is
 perhaps
 their
 greatest
 gift to the
 musical
 theater
 landscap

**CONCLUSION: A
 PARTNERSHIP
 THAT CONTINUES
 TO SHINE**

**Marcy
 Heisler
 and Zina
 Goldrich**
 have
 carved
 out a
 unique
 and
 irreplacea

ble niche happen
 in the on any
 musical scale,
 theater and that
 world. stories
 Their meant for
 body of young
 work audience
 demonstr s can
 ates that have just
 great as much
 songwriti artistic
 ng can integrity

as those shows no
for sign of
adults. As waning.
they For
continue anyone
to write looking to
new understa
material, nd how
teach, lyricist
and and
inspire, composer
their can work
influence in perfect

harmony, excellence,
 the joy,
 partnership and
 integrity of heart.

Marcy Whether
Heisler you're a
and Zina theater
Goldrich educator,
 remains a
 shining student,
 example a casting
 of director,
 creative or simply

a fan of Their
 well- music
 crafted reminds
 songs, us that
 the the most
 catalog of powerful
Marcy stories
Heisler are often
and Zina the ones
Goldrich that
 offers make us
 endless laugh,
 rewards. cry, and

feel a timeless
little less hallmark
alone—an of great
d that is musical
the theater.