

## VERA-ELLEN

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And what is Vera Ellen doing on a Christian and morality site? All will be revealed.

Vera-Ellen was born Vera Ellen Westmeyer Rohe on 16 February 1921 in Norwood, Ohio. Sometimes her date of birth is given as 1926.

In 1932 she was a flower girl at the wedding of Alma Kaesmayer and Henry Meinking Junior. At the age of fourteen, in 1935, she was confirmed by the Reverend Theodore Walz and was in the church choir.

She began dancing at the age of nine. At the age of 16, she won a competition on the Major Bowes Amateur Hour and, in 1939, appeared for the first time on Broadway in the Oscar Hammerstein II's musical *Very Hot for May*. She followed this by appearing in the musicals *Higher and Higher*, in which June Allyson also appeared, *Panama Hattie* with Ethel Merman and *By Jupiter* with Ray Bolger. During this time the hyphen appeared in her name.

She claimed that her inspiration was Vera Zorina and she was lifelong friend of A C Lyles, three years her senior, who was a producer of second feature Westerns..

She married fellow dancer Robert Hightown in 1946 and was divorced in 1948 and, after *By Jupiter* closed, she sang with her husband's brother forming a touring dance troupe called the Hightowers.

She starred in a revival of the Rodgers and Hart musical *A Connecticut Yankee*. During this show she was spotted by Samuel Goldwyn who signed her to a film contract. Her debut was in *Wonder Man* in 1945.

In some films her singing voice was dubbed although she was an adequate singer.

She made fourteen films

'Wonder Man "1945 with Danny Kaye, Virginia Mayo, Steve Cochran, S Z Sakall, Allen Jenkins, Ed Brophy, Donald Woods, Otto Kruger, Richard Lane, Natalie Schaffer

Director Samuel Goldwyn 97 minutes

Songs Rodgers and Hart

The Kid from Brooklyn 1946 with Danny Kaye, Virginia Mayo, Steve Cochran, Eve Arden, Walter Abel, Lionel Stander, Fay Bainter and Clarence Kolb

Director Samual Goldwyn 92 minutes

Story of a timid milkman who becomes a prize fighter

Music Jule Steyne.

Three Little Girls in Blue 1946 with June Havoc, George Montgomery, Vivian Blaine, Celeste Holm, Frank Latimore, Charles Smith, Charles Halton



Director Bruce Humberstone 90 minutes  
Songs Harry Warren

Carnival in Costa Rica 1947 with Dick Haymes, Celeste Holm, J Carroll Naish, Cesar Romero  
Director William A Bacher 97 minutes  
Some music by Ernesto Lecuona

Words and Music 1948 with Tom Drake, Mickey Rooney, Perry Como, Mel Torme, Betty Garrett,  
June Allyson, Lena Horne Anne Sothern, Allyn McLerie, Gene Kelly, Cyd  
Charisse, Janet Leigh, Marshall Thompson  
Director Arthur Freed 121 minutes  
Music and words Rodgers and Hart

Love happy, later called Kleptomaniacs 1949  
Director David Miller with the Marx Brothers, Raymond Burr, Margaret Hutton and Marilyn  
Monroe

On the Town 1949 with Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra, Jules Munshin, Ann Miller, Betty Garrett  
Director Arthur Freed and Gene Kelly 98 minutes

Three Little Words 1950 with Fred Astaire, Red Skelton, Arlene Dahl, Keenan Wynn. Gale Roberts,  
Gloria de Haven, Phil Regan, Debbie Reynolds  
Director Richard Thorpe 102 minutes  
Songs Leonard Bernstein and Roger Edens

Happy Go-lovely 1951 with David Niven, Cesar Romero, Bobby Howes, Diane Hart, Gordon Jackson  
Barbara Couper, Gladys Henson, Joyce Carey  
Director Bruce Humberstone 97 minutes Set in Edinburgh

Belle of New York 1951 with Fred Astaire, Marjorie Main, Keenan Wynn and Alice Pearce  
Director Arthur Freed 82 minutes  
Songs Harry Warren  
Vera-Ellen' singing voice was dubbed by Anita

Ellis

Call Me Madam 1953 with Ethel Merman, Donald O'Connor,  
George Sanders, Billy De Wolf,  
Helmut Dantine, Walter Slezak, Steve  
Geray, Ludwig Stossel  
Director Sol C Seigel Music Irving Berlin  
Vera-Ellen singing was dubbed by Carole  
Richards

Big leaguer 1953 with Edward G Robinson, Jeff Richards,  
William Campbell, Richard Jaeckel  
Director Matthew Rapf 73 minutes  
An aging baseball player sets up a youth group.  
Film will only interest baseball fans.

White Christmas 1954 with Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye,  
Rosemary Clooney, an excellent Dean Jagger, Mary Wickes  
and Anne Whitefield.  
Director Michael Curtiz 120 minutes



Music Irving Berlin  
Songs White Christmas, Sisters, Snow, Count  
your blessings instead of sheep

Let's be happy 1956 with Tony Martin, Robert Fleming,  
Zena Marshall, Gut Middleton, Katherine  
Kath, Jean Cadell, Gordon Jackson  
Director Henry Levin 107 minutes  
Songs by Nicholas Brodsky and Paul Francis  
Webster

There was an alleged romance between her and Rock Hudson (1925- 1985) but that has been dismissed as a stunt to conceal Hudson's homosexuality. But Hudson did have sexual affairs with women despite his sexual orientation. It is said that the affair lasted for two years, which is rather long for a publicity stunt and Hudson spoke of marriage. Neither Hudson or Vera- Ellen ever spoke of their involvement. Hudson died from AIDS. But homosexuality was then regarded as a mental condition and Vera -Ellen tried to get Hudson to relinquish this sexual orientation.



This is the moral issue. Had Vera Ellen stopped Rock Hudson being homosexual early on he may not have had AIDS/HIV and survived.

What prompted vera Ellen to try to get Hudson to give up homosexuality? It was because years before she had had a serious mental condition anorexia nervosa. It is an eating disorder where the sufferer has an obsessive fear of gaining weight due to a distorted self-image. It can be a very serious condition and can result in malnutrition as a result of inadequate diet or starvation. It produces all sorts of bowel problems and can rapidly rot teeth. It is a mental condition and a psychiatrist is often needed. Vera Ellen wanted to stay slim to continue her career as a dancer.

This condition has often been linked to autism.

But this is also a moral issue because a sufferer from anoxeria needs care and will cause family and friends to be worried and concerned.

As for Rock Hudson it is morally wrong for someone to pursue a sexual orientation that they know could cause them illness and death. His family and friends also worried

I am not referring to Rock Hudson now but it is known that many gay people continue to have unprotected sex and are clearly told by experts that this could cause illness and death.

After Vera Ellen's film career ended she made a few TV appearances and did some stage work in Las Vegas.

She married Victor Rothschild in 1955. They had one child, Victoria Ellen, who died in infancy in 1963.

She and Victor divorced in 1966.

Vera-Ellen continued dancing throughout her life.

She died on 31 August 1981. She was 60.

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