# Liza Minnelli reflects on four marriages and enduring belief in love in new BBC2 documentary



Liza Minnelli has candidly reflected on her tumultuous love life, navigating the complexities of four marriages while maintaining an unwavering optimism about romance. In her latest documentary, *Liza: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story*, set to air on BBC2, the legendary singer, actress, and dancer expresses her enduring belief in love, stating, “I feel wonderful about love. I wanted it to be like it was in the songs.”

Born to the iconic Judy Garland and director Vincente Minnelli, Liza was thrust into the spotlight from an early age. Her famous mother, who also had a complicated relationship history with five marriages, has served as both a cautionary tale and a source of inspiration for Liza. The film explores not only her romantic struggles but also the broader implications of growing up in such a celebrated yet tumultuous family.

Liza's first marriage to entertainer Peter Allen in 1967 ended after just a few years following the discovery of his infidelity. Describing Allen as “so much fun to be with,” she noted, “I think he felt restricted. He needed, literally, to come out!” This early lesson in love would not be the last, as Minnelli would go on to marry actor Jack Haley Jr. and sculptor Mark Gero, each relationship imbued with its own unique challenges and gifts. Gero, a non-showbiz figure, was credited by friends as a grounding presence during a turbulent period in Liza’s life.

Her most high-profile marriage was to David Gest, a concert promoter, which took place in a lavish ceremony in 2002 adorned with celebrities like Michael Jackson and Elizabeth Taylor. However, their relationship quickly fell into a maelstrom of public scrutiny and alleged personal conflict. During the divorce proceedings, accusations flew on both sides, with Gest claiming Minnelli’s alleged alcoholism was a factor in their separation, while Minnelli suggested he was emotionally manipulative and reportedly made her feel “afraid for her life.” Such complex dynamics reveal the profound effects of living under a constant media spotlight, exacerbating personal issues between them.

The film confronts these realities, with close friends providing insight into Gest's impact on Liza's life. Michael Feinstein, a singer and pianist, bluntly criticises Gest, noting, “Bette Davis said you should only speak good about the dead. Well, David Gest is dead. Good!” This sentiment reflects broader concerns among Liza's inner circle, who feared Gest's influence was overly controlling, issuing warnings that he isolated her from supportive relationships.

This history of romantic discontent becomes a poignant backdrop for Minnelli's later struggles with addiction, articulated in her reflections on both her tumultuous romantic past and her emotional battles. Minnelli candidly shares her past with substances, revealing, “I always wanted to be the hero,” regarding her efforts to maintain a façade of strength and stability. Inspired by her mother’s own tragic struggles, Liza's narrative is imbued with a sense of resilience amidst personal and familial chaos.

As the documentary premieres, Liza will celebrate the legacy of a career defined by resilience and vibrant expression, despite the shadows of her relationships. Her story serves as a testament to the complexity of love, underscored by her spirited affirmation: “I feel wonderful about love.”

*Liza: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story* not only offers an authentic glimpse into the life of one of showbiz's most enduring figures, but also invites audiences to reflect on the nuanced interplay of love, fame, and personal struggle that defines Minnelli’s exceptional life.

### Reference Map

* Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.mirror.co.uk/3am/celebrity-news/liza-minneli-makes-moving-admission-35260186)
* Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.mirror.co.uk/3am/celebrity-news/liza-minneli-makes-moving-admission-35260186)
* Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.mirror.co.uk/3am/celebrity-news/liza-minneli-makes-moving-admission-35260186)
* Paragraph 4: [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2006/sep/05/arts.usa), [[4]](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/liza-breakup-blamed-on-tabloid/)
* Paragraph 5: [[5]](https://www.cnn.com/videos/us/2016/04/12/david-gest-liza-minnelli-talk-marriage-larry-king-live.cnn), [[6]](https://people.com/celebrity/david-gest-dead-inside-his-showbiz-life-before-and-after-liza-minnelli/), [[7]](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2016/04/13/david-gest-and-liza-minnelli-were-only-married-for-16-months-heres-why/)
* Paragraph 6: [[1]](https://www.mirror.co.uk/3am/celebrity-news/liza-minneli-makes-moving-admission-35260186)
* Paragraph 7: [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2002/mar/18/oliverburkeman), [[6]](https://people.com/celebrity/david-gest-dead-inside-his-showbiz-life-before-and-after-liza-minnelli/)
* Paragraph 8: [[1]](https://www.mirror.co.uk/3am/celebrity-news/liza-minneli-makes-moving-admission-35260186)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.mirror.co.uk/3am/celebrity-news/liza-minneli-makes-moving-admission-35260186> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2002/mar/18/oliverburkeman> - In March 2002, Liza Minnelli married concert promoter David Gest in a lavish ceremony attended by numerous celebrities, including Michael Jackson as best man and Elizabeth Taylor as matron of honor. The wedding was described as a 'night of a thousand facelifts,' highlighting the star-studded nature of the event. The ceremony took place at the Marble Collegiate Church in New York City, with guests such as Diana Ross, Lauren Bacall, and Carol Channing in attendance. The event was widely covered in the media, emphasizing the grandeur and celebrity presence.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2006/sep/05/arts.usa> - In September 2006, during a contentious divorce proceeding, Liza Minnelli accused her ex-husband, David Gest, of making her 'afraid for her life' by allegedly poisoning her. This claim was part of a broader legal battle where Gest had previously filed a $10 million lawsuit against Minnelli, alleging physical and emotional abuse during their 16-month marriage. Minnelli's counterclaim included accusations of Gest's emotional manipulation and the alleged poisoning incident, adding complexity to the ongoing legal disputes between the former couple.
4. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/liza-breakup-blamed-on-tabloid/> - In a 2003 interview, David Gest claimed that a tabloid article portraying his estranged wife, Liza Minnelli, as an alcoholic led to their separation. Gest stated that after Minnelli read the article, she announced their marriage was over. He denied any involvement with the tabloid report and suggested that their relationship might have continued had it not been published. This perspective highlighted the influence of media coverage on their personal lives and the challenges they faced during their marriage.
5. <https://www.cnn.com/videos/us/2016/04/12/david-gest-liza-minnelli-talk-marriage-larry-king-live.cnn> - In a 2002 interview on 'Larry King Live,' David Gest and Liza Minnelli discussed their marriage and the challenges of being in the public eye. Gest expressed that their relationship was special and that they were very much alike, enjoying each other's company. Minnelli echoed these sentiments, emphasizing their deep love and the joy they found in each other's presence. The interview provided insight into their personal dynamics and the complexities of maintaining a relationship under intense media scrutiny.
6. <https://people.com/celebrity/david-gest-dead-inside-his-showbiz-life-before-and-after-liza-minnelli/> - David Gest, a concert producer and reality TV star, was known for his brief marriage to Liza Minnelli. The couple married in 2002 in a star-studded ceremony, with Michael Jackson as best man and Elizabeth Taylor as matron of honor. However, their marriage lasted less than a year, and their divorce proceedings attracted significant media attention. Gest's life and career were marked by his association with Minnelli, and his passing in 2016 brought renewed focus to their relationship and its impact on his showbiz life.
7. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2016/04/13/david-gest-and-liza-minnelli-were-only-married-for-16-months-heres-why/> - David Gest and Liza Minnelli's marriage, which lasted only 16 months, was marked by public disputes and legal battles. Gest alleged that Minnelli's alcohol-induced rages led to physical abuse, while Minnelli countered with claims of emotional manipulation and financial disputes. The couple's relationship was under intense media scrutiny, and their divorce proceedings were highly publicized. The article delves into the complexities of their marriage, the challenges they faced, and the impact of their personal issues on their public personas.