

## Al Hirschfeld

Al Hirschfeld spent more than 75 years attending Broadway plays and sketching the stars for The New York Times and other publications. Full of wit and verve, Hirschfeld's distinctively bold, curvy line drawings caricatured stars from Groucho Marx and Ethel Merman through Barbra Streisand and beyond. His first newspaper sketches appeared in the 1920s, and he continued working until his death in 2003. After the 1945 birth of his daughter Nina, Hirschfeld began hiding her name in his drawings, often tucked into hair or shirt folds. Finding the Ninas became a pastime with Hirschfeld's fans, and after a time he added a number to his signature to indicate how many Ninas each drawing contained.

Hirschfeld received a special Tony Award in 1975, and another in 1984 as the first recipient of the Brooks Atkinson Award... A 1996 documentary about Hirschfeld, *The Line King* was nominated for the Academy Award... Hirschfeld was married to German actress Dolly Haas from 1942 until her death in 1994.

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