Mickey, Judy, Colin, and Me

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Abstract

Creating an electronic journal on the Internet is a lot more like staging a musical in a Mickey Rooney - Judy Garland film than like a business venture. The Journal of Electronic Publishing doesn't pretend to be a business-in-the-making, but instead is the University of Michigan Press's basic research into e-publishing.

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Wildflowers sets three of Judy Collins' songs alongside covers of Leonard Cohen and Joni Mitchell, and her take on Mitchell's “Both Sides Now” turned into the hit that launched this album up the charts. Though a product of the acoustic guitar-favoring Greenwich Village folk scene, Collins was by this point singing over lush orchestral arrangements, with sweet choruses of clarinet and flute complementing the effortless formality of her own voice. His crawl through the standard “Hang Me, Oh Hang Me” is almost oppressively intimate, its spare fingerpicked guitar and slow-pooling croon as stifling as the solitude he's succumbing to. His soulful yet chatty pass through “Cocaine Blues” brings a modern sheen to the addict's tale, rivaling Dylan's reedier, less convincing turn.