

MAKING MEMORIES AT THE MOVIES – A Guide to Watching at Home

Celebrating Women in Film

All films in this program have something in common: Their stars are legendary women in film. Do you recall seeing these films? Let's spark some memories!

A little background information about women in film

According to the Study of Women in Television and Film at San Diego State University, male characters continued to control the big screen in 2018.

- about 35% of films contained 10 or more female characters in dialogue roles
- about 82% had 10 or more male characters in speaking roles.

...research is still revealing that women are overwhelmingly valued in film based on their identification as a mother, wife, or lover (Lang, 2015). Women are often portrayed as dependent on other characters, over-emotional, and confined to low-status jobs when compared to enterprising and ambitious male characters.

So... let's celebrate some of our outstanding female actor's who have endured throughout the years!

Judy Garland

The Wizard of Oz (1939) is an American musical fantasy film. Widely considered to be one of the greatest films in cinema history, it is the best-known and most commercially successful adaptation of L. Frank Baum's 1900 children's book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. The film stars **Judy Garland** as Dorothy Galea, alongside Ray Bolger, Jack Haley, Bert Lahr, Frank Morgan, Billie Burke and Margaret Hamilton.

Theme:

Dorothy Gale lives with her dog Toto on a Kansas farm belonging to her Aunt Em and Uncle Henry. She is not able to join her family in their storm cellar during a tornado, so instead, takes shelter in her bedroom where she is hit by flying debris. Her fantasy in OZ begins!

We join the film before the tornado when Dorothy fantasizes about a world **Over the Rainbow**.

Fun Facts:

Judy Garland (born Frances Ethel Gumm; June 10, 1922 – June 22, 1969) was an American actress, singer, dancer, and vaudevillian. Her career spanned 45 years. Garland began performing in vaudeville as a child with her two older sisters, and was later signed to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer as a teenager. Although she appeared in more than two dozen films with MGM and received acclaim for many different roles, she is often best remembered for her portrayal of Dorothy Gale in *The Wizard of Oz* (1939)

At the 1939 Academy Awards ceremony, Garland received her only Academy Award, an Academy Juvenile Award for her performances in 1939, including *The Wizard of Oz* and *Babes in Arms*

Food for Thought:

- What's your earliest memory of *The Wizard of Oz*?
- Can you name some other movies that Judy Garland was in?
- Who was Judy Garland married to?

Julie Andrews Mary Tyler Moore Carol Channing

Thoroughly Modern Millie (1967) is an American musical-romantic comedy film directed by George Roy Hill and starring Julie Andrews. The film also stars Mary Tyler Moore, James Fox, John Gavin, Carol Channing, and Beatrice Lillie.

Theme:

The screenplay focuses on a naive young woman who finds herself in the midst of a series of madcap adventures when she sets her sights on marrying her wealthy boss.

We join the film at a Friendship Dance in the Dining Hall of the Priscilla Hotel where Millie meets the devil-may-care paper clip salesman Jimmy Smith (James Fox), to whom she takes an instant liking. However, she carries on with her plan to work for and then marry a rich man. So when she gets a job at Sincere Trust, she sets her sights on the attractive but self-absorbed Trevor Graydon (John Gavin). Jimmy later takes her and Miss Dorothy (Mary Tyler Moore) on an outing to Long Island, where they meet eccentric widow Muzzy Van Hossmere (Carol Channing).

Fun Facts:

Julie Andrews as Millie Dillmount....(born **Julia Elizabeth Wells**; October 1, 1935), is an English actress, singer and author. She rose to prominence starring in Broadway musicals such as *My Fair Lady* (1956) playing Eliza Doolittle, and *Camelot* (1960) playing Queen Guinevere. Andrews made her feature film debut in *Mary Poppins* (1964), and won the Academy Award for Best Actress for her performance in the title role. She starred in *The Sound of Music* (1965), playing Maria von Trapp, and won the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress – Motion Picture Comedy or Musical. Between 1964 and 1986, she starred in *The Americanization of Emily* (1964), *Hawaii* (1966), *Torn Curtain* (1966), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (1967), *Star!* (1968), *The Tamarind Seed* (1974), *10* (1979), *Victor/Victoria* (1982), *That's Life!* (1986) and *Duet for One* (1986). Andrews has been married twice, first to set designer Tony Walton from 1959 until 1967, then to director Blake Edwards from 1969 until his death in 2010.

Mary Tyler Moore as Miss Dorothy Brown.... (December 29, 1936 – January 25, 2017) was an American actress, known for her roles in the television sitcoms *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* (1970–1977), in which she starred as Mary Richards, a single woman working as a local news producer in Minneapolis, and *The Dick Van Dyke Show* (1961–1966), in which she played Laura Petrie, a former dancer turned Westchester homemaker, wife and mother. Her film work includes 1967's *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and 1980's *Ordinary People*, for which she was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress.

Carol Channing as Muzzy Van Hossmere.... (January 31, 1921 – January 15, 2019) was an American actress, singer, dancer and comedienne. She began as a Broadway musical actress, starring in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* in 1949 and *Hello, Dolly!* in 1964, winning the Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical for the latter. As a film actress, she won the Golden Globe Award and was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her performance as Muzzy in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (1967)

Food for Thought:

- **What is your favorite Julie Andrews role? Mary Tyler Moore? Carol Channing?**
- **Did you ever do the Charleston? What's your favorite style of dancing? Favorite dance step?**

Katherine Hepburn Jane Fonda

On Golden Pond (1981) is an American film starring Katharine Hepburn and Henry Fonda (in his final acting performance) along with Jane Fonda, Doug McKeon, Dabney Coleman and William Lanteau.

Theme:

The film's narrative revolves around an aged couple, cantankerous retiree Norman Thayer and his conciliatory wife Ethel, who spend summers at their New England vacation home on the shores of idyllic Golden Pond. This year, their adult daughter, Chelsea, visits with her new fiancé and his teenage son, Billy, on their way to Europe. Chelsea, who is somewhat estranged from her curmudgeon of a father introduces her parents to her fiancé Bill and his thirteen-year-old son Billy.

We join the film when Chelsea returns from Europe to pick up Billy, who has bonded with her father, which is difficult for her to accept.

Fun Facts:

The film received ten nominations at the 54th Academy Awards including Best Picture and won three: Best Actor(Fonda), Best Actress (Hepburn) and Best Adapted Screenplay (Thompson).

Jane Fonda purchased the rights to the play specifically for her father, Henry Fonda, to play the role of the cantankerous Norman Thayer. The father-daughter rift depicted on screen closely paralleled the real-life relationship between the two Fondas.

Jane Seymour Fonda (born December 21, 1937)¹ is an American actress, writer, producer, political activist, fitness guru, and former fashion model. In 1982, she released her first exercise video, *Jane Fonda's Workout*, which became the highest-selling VHS of all time. In 1968, she played the title role in the science fiction spoof *Barbarella*, which established her status as a sex symbol. In contrast, the tragedy *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* (1969) won her critical acclaim and marked a significant turning point in her career;

Katharine Houghton Hepburn (May 12, 1907 – June 29, 2003) was an American actress. known for her fierce independence and spirited personality, Hepburn was a leading lady in Hollywood for more than six decades. She appeared in a range of genres, from screwball comedy to literary drama, and made a record of four Academy Awards for Best Actress. In 1999, Hepburn was named by the American Film Institute as the greatest female star of Classic Hollywood Cinema.. Her early years in the film industry were marked with success, including an Academy Award for her third picture, *Morning Glory*(1933). In the 1940s, she was contracted to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, where her career focused on an alliance with Spencer Tracy. The screen partnership spanned 25 years and produced nine movies. She found a niche playing middle-aged spinsters, such as in *The African Queen*(1951).Three more Oscars came for her work in *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* (1967), *The Lion in Winter* (1968), and *On Golden Pond* (1981) Hepburn famously shunned the Hollywood publicity machine, and refused to conform to society's expectations of women. She was outspoken, assertive, athletic, and wore trousers before it was fashionable for women to do so. She was briefly married as a young woman, but thereafter lived independently. A 26-year affair with her co-star Spencer Tracy was hidden from the public. With her unconventional lifestyle and the independent characters she brought to the screen, Hepburn epitomized the "modern woman" in the 20th-century United States, and is remembered as an important cultural figure.

Food for Thought:

- **Do you have any particular memories of Katherine Hepburn? Jane Fonda?**
- **Did you have a summer home? Go fishing? Take care of your grandchildren?**

Debbie Reynolds

Singin' in the Rain (1952) is a American musical-romantic comedy film directed and choreographed by Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen, starring Kelly, Donald O'Connor, and Debbie Reynolds.

Theme:

Singin in the Rain offers a lighthearted depiction of Hollywood in the late 1920s, with the three stars portraying performers caught up in the transition from silent films to "talkies". Don, a major silent film star, is smitten with Kathy, a budding actress, and searches for her for weeks. While filming a love scene, his co-star, Lina, tells him that she had Kathy fired. Don finally finds Kathy working in another Monumental Pictures production. She confesses to having been a fan of his all along.

We join the film when Kelly, O'Connor and Reynolds spend the night planning how to re-create Kelly's latest silent film, which is a flop, into a musical.....singing **Good Morning**, a song originally written for the film *Babes in Arms*.

Fun Facts:

Debbie" Reynolds (April 1, 1932 – December 28, 2016) was an American actress, singer, businesswoman, film historian, and humanitarian. Her career spanned almost 70 years. She was nominated for the Golden Globe Award for Most Promising Newcomer for her portrayal of Helen Kane in the 1950 film *Three Little Words*, and her breakout role was her first leading role, as Kathy Selden in *Singin' in the Rain* (1952).

She starred in *How the West Was Won* (1962), and *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* (1964), a biographical film about the famously boisterous Molly Brown.^[1] Her performance as Brown earned her a nomination for the Academy Award for Best Actress. Her other films include *The Singing Nun* (1966), *Divorce American Style* (1967), *What's the Matter with Helen?*(1971), *Charlotte's Web* (1973), *Mother* (1996) (Golden Globe nomination), and *In & Out* (1997).

On December 28, 2016, Reynolds was hospitalized at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center after she experienced a medical emergency, which her son Todd Fisher later described as a "severe stroke". She died from the stroke that afternoon, one day after the death of her daughter, Carrie Fisher

Reynolds was married three times. Her first marriage was to singer Eddie Fisher in 1955. They became the parents of Carrie(1956–2016) and Todd Fisher (1958). The couple divorced in 1959 when it was revealed shortly after the death of Elizabeth Taylor's husband Mike Todd that Fisher had been having an affair with her; Taylor and Reynolds were good friends at the time . Reynolds' second marriage, to millionaire businessman Harry Karl, lasted from 1960 to 1973. Reynolds' third marriage was to real estate developer Richard Hamlett from 1984 to 1996.

Food for Thought:

- Do you have any particular memories of Debbie Reynolds?
- Can you think of any other roles that Debbie Reynolds played? (Tammy, Dobbie Gilles' girlfriend....)
- Do you have a favorite part or song in the movie **Singin' In the Rain**?

Bea Arthur/Betty White/Rue McClanahan/Estelle Getty

The Golden Girls is an American sitcom created by Susan Harris that originally aired on NBC from September 14, 1985, to May 9, 1992.

Theme:

The show stars Bea Arthur, Betty White, Rue McClanahan, and Estelle Getty as four older women who share a home in Miami, Florida. The owner of the house is a widow named Blanche Devereaux (McClanahan), who was joined by fellow widow Rose Nylund (White) and divorcée Dorothy Zbornak (Arthur), after they both responded to an ad on the bulletin board of a local grocery store a year before the start of the series. In the pilot episode, the three were joined by Dorothy's 80-year-old mother, Sophia Petrillo (Getty), after the retirement home where she had been living burned down. **We join the Golden Girls** in an episode when they catch colds before a big dance.

Fun Facts:

Beatrice Arthur (May 13, 1922 – April 25, 2009) was an American actress, comedienne, and animal rights activist. Arthur began her career on stage in 1947 and made her Broadway debut in *The Threepenny Opera* in 1954. She won the 1966 Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical for playing Vera Charles in *Mame*. She went on to play Maude Findlay on the 1970s sitcoms *All in the Family* (1971–72) and *Maude* (1972–78), and Dorothy Zbornak on the 1980s sitcom *The Golden Girls* (1985–92), winning Emmy Awards for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series in 1977

Betty Marion White Ludden (born January 17, 1922) is an American actress and comedian, with the longest television career of any female entertainer, spanning 80 years. Regarded as a pioneer of television, she is one of the first women to have control both in front of and behind the camera and is recognized as the first woman to produce a sitcom (*Life with Elizabeth*), which contributed to her receiving the honorary title Mayor of Hollywood in 1955. She is known for her award-winning roles as Sue Ann Nivens on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* (1973–77) and Rose Nylund on *The Golden Girls* (1985–92)

Eddi-Rue McClanahan (February 21, 1934 – June 3, 2010) was an American actress best known for her roles on television as Vivian Harmon on *Maude* (1972–78), Aunt Fran Crowley on *Mama's Family* (1983–84), and Blanche Devereaux on *The Golden Girls* (1985–92), for which she won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series in 1987.

Estelle Getty (July 25, 1923 – July 22, 2008) was an American actress and comedian, who appeared in film, television, and theatre. She was best known for her role as Sophia Petrillo on *The Golden Girls* from 1985 to 1992, which won her an Emmy and a Golden Globe, on *The Golden Palace* from 1992 to 1993, and on *Empty Nest* from 1993 to 1995. In her later years, after retiring from acting, she battled Lewy body dementia.

White had a strained relationship with her *Golden Girls* co-star **Bea Arthur** on and off the set of their television show, commenting that Arthur "was not that fond of me" and that "she found me a pain in the neck sometimes. It was my positive attitude — and that made Bea mad sometimes. Sometimes if I was happy, she'd be furious."

Food for Thought:

- Do you have any particular memories of the Golden Girls? Did you watch it?
- The premise of the Golden Girls is feasible...do you know of anyone living in a similar situation
- Who was your favorite character? Actress?
- Who was Betty White married to? What TV show did he host? (Allen Ludden...Password)

Audrey Hepburn

My Fair Lady (1964) is a American musical drama film adapted from the Lerner and Loewe eponymous stage musical based on the 1913 stage play *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw. The film stars Audrey Hepburn as Eliza Doolittle and Rex Harrison as Henry Higgins, with Stanley Holloway, Gladys Cooper and Wilfrid Hyde-White in supporting roles. A critical and commercial success, it won eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Actor, and Best Director.^[4] In 1998, the American Film Institute named it the 91st greatest American film of all time

Theme:

The film depicts a poor Cockney flower seller named Eliza Doolittle (Hepburn) who overhears an arrogant phonetics professor, Henry Higgins (Harrison), as he casually wagers that he could teach her to speak "proper" English, thereby making her presentable in the high society of Edwardian London.

We join the film just when Higgins, and colleague, Pickering are about to give up, Eliza finally "gets it" ("**The Rain in Spain**") and she instantly begins to speak with an impeccable upper-class accent, and is overjoyed at her breakthrough ("**I Could Have Danced All Night**").

Fun Facts:

Audrey Hepburn (4 May 1929 – 20 January 1993) was a British actress, model, dancer and humanitarian. Recognized as a film and fashion icon, Hepburn was active during Hollywood's Golden Age. She was ranked by the American Film Institute as the third-greatest female screen legend in Golden Age Hollywood, and was inducted into the International Best Dressed List Hall of Fame.

She shot to stardom after playing the lead role in *Roman Holiday* (1953), for which she was the first actress to win an Academy Award, a Golden Globe Award, and a BAFTA Award for a single performance. That same year, Hepburn won a Tony Award for Best Lead Actress in a Play for her performance in *Ondine*. She went on to star in a number of successful films, such as *Sabrina* (1954), *The Nun's Story* (1959), *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1961), *Charade* (1963), *My Fair Lady* (1964), and *Wait Until Dark* (1967)

Hepburn appeared in fewer films as her life went on, devoting much of her later life to UNICEF. She had contributed to the organization since 1954, then worked in some of the poorest communities of Africa, South America and Asia between 1988 and 1992. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in recognition of her work as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador in December 1992. A month later, Hepburn died of appendiceal cancer at her home in Switzerland at the age of 63.

Food for Thought:

- **Do you have any particular memory of Audrey Hepburn?**
- **Does the music to *My Fair Lady* bring memories to you?**
- **What do you think of the song "I Could Have Danced All Night"?**

Liza Minelli

New York, New York (1977) is a American musical drama film directed by Martin Scorsese. It is a musical tribute, featuring new songs by John Kander and Fred Ebb as well as jazz standards, to Scorsese's home town of New York City, and stars Robert De Niro and Liza Minnelli as a pair of musicians and lovers.

Theme:

The story is "about a jazz saxophonist (De Niro) and a pop singer (Minnelli) who fall madly in love and marry"; however, the "saxophonist's outrageously volatile personality places a continual strain on their relationship, and after they have a baby, their marriage crumbles", even as their careers develop on separate paths.

We join the film as Minelli performs the song that has finally cemented her stardom....”**New York, New York”**

Fun Facts:

Liza May Minnelli (March 12, 1946) is an American actress and singer. Best known for her Academy Award-winning performance in *Cabaret* (1972), she is noted for her energetic stage presence and her powerful Mezzo-Soprano singing voice. She is the daughter of Judy Garland and Vincente Minnelli. She is of Italian and mixed European descent.

Minnelli moved to New York City in 1961, where she began her career as a musical theatre actress, nightclub performer and traditional pop music artist. She made her professional stage debut in the 1963 Off-Broadway revival of *Best Foot Forward*^[1] and won a Tony Award for starring in *Flora the Red Menace* in 1965.

Critically lauded for her early non-musical screen performances—especially *The Sterile Cuckoo* (1969)—Minnelli rose to international stardom.

Best known for her renditions of pop standards, Minnelli's early 1960s pop singles were produced to attract a young audience,^{[8][9]} and her albums from 1968 to 1977 contained much of the contemporary singer-songwriter material.

Minnelli was born on March 12, 1946 in Hollywood, California to Judy Garland and Vincente Minnelli. Her first performing experience on film was at age three appearing in the final scene of the musical *In the Good Old Summertime* (1949); the film stars Garland and Van Johnson.

Minnelli has married and divorced four times. Minnelli also had relationships with Rock Brynner (son of Yul Brynner), Desi Arnaz, Jr., Peter Sellers, and Martin Scorsese.

Food for Thought:

- **How do you feel when you hear the song ‘New York, New York’? Who else sang this song?**
- **Did you ever see Cabaret? With Liza Minnelli? On Broadway?**
- **Have you gone to a night club? A jazz bar or jazz club?**
- **Robert De Niro is a prolific actor and director. Can you think of any movies he has starred in? When did he make his Hollywood premier?**

Lucille Ball

I Love Lucy (1951-1957) Lucy Does a Commercial (1952)

Theme:

Ricky (Desi Arnaz) is given an opportunity to host a television show and is notified that he needs to find a girl to do a commercial spot for one of their sponsors. Lucy (Lucille Ball) begs Ricky to let her do the commercial, but he refuses. Somehow Lucy angles her way onto Ricky's special as the show's pitch girl.

We join Lucy as she attempts to advertise the medicine called "Vitameatavegamin", believing it contains only vitamins, minerals, meat and vegetables. Unbeknownst to Lucy, it also has 23% alcohol!

Fun Facts:

Lucille Désirée Ball (August 6, 1911 – April 26, 1989) was an American actress, comedian, model, studio executive and producer. As one of Hollywood's greatest icons, she was the star and producer of sitcoms *I Love Lucy*, *The Lucy Show*, *Here's Lucy*, as well as comedy television specials aired under the title *The Lucy-Desi Comedy Hour*.

Ball's career began in 1929 when she landed work as a model. Shortly thereafter, she began her performing career on Broadway using the stage name Diane Belmont. She later appeared in several minor film roles in the 1930s and 1940s as a contract player for RKO Radio Pictures, being cast as a chorus girl or in similar roles. During this time, she met Cuban bandleader Desi Arnaz, and the two eloped in November 1940. In 1951, she and Arnaz created the sitcom *I Love Lucy*, a series that became one of the most beloved programs in television history. The same year, Ball gave birth to their first child, Lucie Arnaz, followed by Desi Arnaz Jr. in 1953. Ball and Arnaz divorced in May 1960, and she married comedian Gary Morton in 1961.

In 1962, Ball became the first woman to run a major television studio, Desilu Productions, which produced many popular television series, including *Mission: Impossible* and *Star Trek*.

Lucille Ball, in *I Love Lucy*, inevitably met with disaster whenever she pursued job opportunities or interests that took her outside of the household. On the other hand, the fact that every episode revolved around Lucy's attempts to pursue outside interests indicated her discontent with remaining at home. Moreover, Lucille Ball, while playing the role of a hapless housewife on TV, was in reality a highly successful actress and producer, and thus challenged society's expectations of women.

Food for Thought:

- Do you have a favorite *I Love Lucy* episode?

Other Female Icons:

Elizabeth Taylor

Meryl Streep

Bette Davis

Ingrid Bergman

Barbara Stanwick

Lauren Bacall

Vivian Leigh

Joan Crawford

Shirley MacLaine

Judi Dench

Lillian Gish

Sally Field

Joan Crawford

Cissy Spacek

Greta Garbo

Marlene Dietrich

Olivia de Havilland

Maureen O'Hara

Ginger Rogers

Deborah Kerr

Helen Mirren

Claudette Colbert