Remembering Movie Stars
Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers are considered the greatest dance team in history. Together, they established a new type of musical and dance comedy in Hollywood.

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers developed a dance style that incorporated vaudeville, ballroom dancing, tap dancing, soft shoe, and ballet. Fred Astaire was more accomplished, using his experience in ballet. Ginger Rogers perfectly followed Fred Astaire’s lead, allowing the duo to appear flawless.

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers appeared in 10 films together, including: *Flying Down to Rio*, *Top Hat*, *Swing Time*, and *Shall We Dance*. Movies consisted of numerous dance numbers which were assimilated into the plot.

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers were active in Hollywood after their dance partnership ended. Fred Astaire continued dancing and appeared in over 40 movies. A talented actress, Ginger Rogers accepted an Academy Award for *Kitty Foyle* in 1940.
James Cagney

James Cagney’s lasting image of twentieth-century film is of being a tough-guy. James Cagney played complex and multi-dimensional characters.

James Cagney’s first starring role was as a gangster in The Public Enemy in 1931. Warner Brothers then changed the image of James Cagney to a common man trying to make it in the United States. During 1932-1939, James Cagney appeared in 25 films, including roles as a hardworking Irish American and as an outlaw who later reformed to do the right thing.

During WWII, the image of James Cagney evolved into a positive American figure who supported the Allies against the Axis powers. In 1942, James Cagney won an Academy Award for his portrayal as George M. Cohan in Yankee Doodle Dandy. In 1974, James Cagney accepted the American Film Institute’s lifetime achievement award, the second award ever given.

Bing Crosby is one of history’s most famous singing sensations. Bing Crosby created over 1,600 recordings which have sold an estimated 500 million copies. Known for his distinctive baritone voice, Bing Crosby’s famous holiday classic “White Christmas” is one of the best-selling songs in music history.

Bing Crosby was hired to Paramount Pictures during the Golden Days of Hollywood. He would often appear in three movies each year. Bing Crosby appeared in a popular movie series with Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour, including *The Road to Singapore*, *The Road to Zanzibar*, and *The Road to Morocco*. Bing Crosby won an Academy Award for his role as a priest in the film *Going My Way*.

Bing Crosby performed on the radio show *Kraft Music Hall* for almost a dozen years. On television, Bing Crosby hosted a yearly Christmas show and starred in *The Bing Crosby Show* which ran for two seasons.
Clark Gable

Clark Gable was America’s top male actor for nearly thirty years. Clark Gable was a model of masculinity and was idolized by millions of women across the world.

Clark Gable worked his way up the entertainment ladder as a movie extra and unskilled stage actor. In 1930, Gable was offered a contract by MGM and appeared in roles opposite Norma Shearer, Jean Harlow, and Greta Garbo. In 1934, Clark Gable won an Academy Award for *It Happened One Night*.

Clark Gable starred in a number of box-office hits during his career: *Boomtown*, *San Francisco*, *Mutiny on the Bounty*, and *Gone with the Wind*. Clark Gable was known as the “King of Hollywood” until his death in 1960.

Henry Fonda

Henry Fonda’s career spanned over forty years. Fonda appeared in numerous classic films: *Young Mr. Lincoln*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, and *12 Angry Men*. Henry Fonda was renowned for being a man of the people.

Henry Fonda played multi-dimensional characters and appeared in notable box office hits: *The Lady Eve*, *The Ox-Bow Incident*, *My Darling Clementine*, and *The Wrong Man*. Henry Fonda was active in Broadway where noteworthy achievements included *The Caine Mutiny*, *Court Martial*, and *Mister Roberts*. Henry Fonda performed in several television specials such as *Clarence Darrow* and *The Deputy*.

In 1981, Henry Fonda was awarded an honorary Academy Award for recognition of his achievements in film as well as the Academy Award for Best Actor in the film *On Golden Pond*.

Judy Garland was the star of musicals during the Golden Age of Hollywood, stealing hearts of fans across the globe. Garland played roles of good natured, small-town young women with big dreams. Using her strong, energetic, and dynamic voice, Judy Garland popularized many songs from her movies.

Judy Garland appeared as leading lady in noteworthy films of the 1930’s and 1940’s: *The Wizard of Oz*, *Strike Up the Band*, *The Harvey Girls*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, and *Easter Parade*. These classic movies contain the famous songs “Over the Rainbow,” “The Trolley Song,” and “The Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe.”

Judy Garland is still adored by fans as a Hollywood icon. Judy Garland won a special Academy Award for *The Wizard of Oz* in 1940, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Grammy Awards in 1997, and has two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Audrey Hepburn

Fans remember Audrey Hepburn as beautiful, charming, regal, graceful, down-to-earth, and always a lady. Audrey Hepburn had large eyes and trained as a dancer. Though she had little acting training, Audrey Hepburn had notable screen presence.

Audrey Hepburn appeared in roles and movies that are considered timeless: Holly Golightly in *Breakfast at Tiffany’s*, Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*, Sabrina Fairchild in *Sabrina*, and Princess Ann in *Roman Holiday*, for which she won an Academy Award.

Later in life, Audrey Hepburn was a goodwill ambassador with the international children’s relief fund UNICEF. Audrey Hepburn nursed sick and injured children and reported her experiences to the world.

Marilyn Monroe

Beautiful and glamorous, Marilyn Monroe is one of the most popular movie stars and legends in history. Decades after her death, fans still idolize Marilyn Monroe. Marilyn Monroe had a spellbinding, breathless way of talking and a velvety voice.

As the original blonde bombshell, Marilyn Monroe started as a pin-up girl for serviceman in World War II. A talent scout soon signed Marilyn Monroe to Twentieth-Century Fox.

Though cast as the silly blonde, Marilyn Monroe had surprising acting and comedic talents. These skills were featured in films *Some Like It Hot*, *The Seven Year Itch*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, and *How to Marry a Millionaire*.

Marilyn Monroe famously married legendary New York Yankee centerfielder, Joe DiMaggio. Though later divorced, Joe DiMaggio had flowers delivered to Marilyn Monroe’s gravesite for 20 years after her death.

Debbie Reynolds

Debbie Reynolds starred in musicals and comedies that incorporated her charm and enthusiastic nature in the 1950’s and 1960’s. These qualities enabled Debbie Reynolds to shine in films and led to leading roles due to her popularity. Debbie Reynolds was animated and vivacious in her acting roles.

Debbie Reynolds appeared in the musical comedies *Singin’ in the Rain* with Gene Kelly and *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, a role in which she also appeared on stage. Debbie Reynolds was featured in *The Catered Affair*, *The Gazebo*, and *How the West Was Won*. Debbie Reynolds accepted an honorary Academy Award in 2016.

Debbie Reynolds’ collected Hollywood film memorabilia over decades, including Marilyn Monroe’s famous white subway dress. Debbie Reynolds was married to Eddie Fisher, who infamously divorced Debbie Reynolds to marry Elizabeth Taylor.

Elizabeth Taylor was beautiful, glamorous, and had violet eyes. Elizabeth Taylor wore striking jewelry and had relationships with Hollywood’s leading men. Elizabeth Taylor supported charitable organizations, including founding the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

At age 9, Elizabeth Taylor was offered a contract with Universal Pictures and became a child star. Throughout the 1940’s, 1950’s, and 1960’s, Elizabeth Taylor appeared in memorable films: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Butterfield 8*, *Cleopatra*, and *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Elizabeth Taylor won Academy Awards for *Butterfield 8* and *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* For *Cleopatra*, Elizabeth Taylor was the first star ever to receive $1 million in compensation.

Elizabeth Taylor was married a notable eight times, including to Conrad Hilton Jr., Eddie Fisher, and Richard Burton. Richard Burton (who Elizabeth Taylor married twice) gave her the famous 33-carat Krup diamond.

Spencer Tracy

An expert at both drama and comedy, Spencer Tracy played a variety of multi-dimensional characters. Though hefty with a rugged face, Spencer Tracy was able to brilliantly portray feelings and emotions in roles. Tracy had a thirty-seven year film career and appeared in seventy-three movies. Spencer Tracy is famous for his on-screen partnership and off-screen romance with Katharine Hepburn.

Spencer Tracy often played judges, priests, fathers, and angels. Spencer Tracy won an Academy Award for Captains Courageous and a second Academy Award for Boys Town. Spencer Tracy was the first actor to win two Academy Awards two years in a row.

Spencer Tracy was nominated for Academy Awards for the films San Francisco, Father of the Bride, Bad Day at Black Rock, The Old Man and the Sea, Inherit the Wind, Judgement at Nuremberg, and Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner.

John Wayne represents “America” to millions of individuals across the globe and is considered to be a national treasure. John Wayne portrayed characters that represented America and what it stood for: football players, soldiers, sailors, and detectives. John Wayne depicted American values and will be best remembered for playing Western heroes.

John Wayne was an eternal student and always wanted to perfect his acting skill. John Wayne had iconic roles in *Sands of Iwo Jima, Stagecoach, The Alamo, Fort Apache, She Wore a Yellow Ribbon, Rio Grande,* and *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance.*

John Wayne won an Academy Award for the film *True Grit* in 1970 and was nominated for Academy Awards for the films *The Alamo* and *Sands of Iwo Jima.*