

Hollywood: Her Story April 2020 ENewsletter Contagion



Contagion has become one of the most-watched movies around with a plot line that is in some ways eerily similar to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Parallels include the effects on health care professionals, government officials, and the public search for a cure for a frightening and widespread disease. Three of its stars--Gwyneth Paltrow, Kate Winslet, and Marion Cotillard--are in our book and have had noteworthy careers, in addition to this film.



Gwyneth Paltrow, daughter of actress Blythe Danner, debuted in two 1991 films--Shout and Hook; she played Wendy Darling in the latter, a Steven Spielberg-directed film. Her breakout acting role was in the acclaimed 1998 movie Shakespeare in Love for which she won an Academy Award for Best Actress. Although Paltrow reduced her filmmaking work as she was raising her young children, she did find the time to portray Pepper Potts in Iron Man and The Avengers movies. She was nominated for a Grammy Award for her work on the children's audiobook The Brown Bear & Friends. Paltrow earned an Emmy for her guest appearance on the television program Glee. Today, Paltrow is focusing more on her businesses than on acting.

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The Reader
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Although British actress **Kate Winslet** debuted in a 1994 film, she rocketed to fame for her role in the 1997 movie *Titanic* for which she received an Oscar nomination for Best Actress. That was her second Oscar nomination, but it would take another five nominations before she would win an acting Oscar in 2009 for *The Reader*. A Commander of the Order of the British Empire, Winslet has also won a Grammy and an Emmy. The Grammy was for the narration of a short story from the book *Listen to the Storyteller* and her Emmy came from her work in the miniseries *Mildred Pierce*. Named one of the most influential people in the world in 2009, Winslet said, "I can't just learn my lines and do [my job], but perhaps that's because I don't want to act, I want to be. And I do think there's a difference."

Like Kate Winslet, French actress **Marion Cotillard** made her film debut in 1994. Her breakthrough came in the French film *Taxi* in 1998. Cotillard won the Best Actress Oscar in 2008 for *La Vie en Rose* and was nominated a



second time in 2015 for *Two Days, One Night*. Both movies were Frenchlanguage films and to date she is the first and only actor, male or female, to win the acting Oscar for a foreign language performance. She has been named an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters in France recognizing her significant contributions to the enrichment of the French cultural inheritance.

Women in front of and behind the camera make the movies that we all welcome into our hearts and homes. Women across all the areas of moviemaking from actress to animator, editor to stuntwoman, costume designer to screenwriter, producer to director have contributed to the success of the movie industry since its founding in the 1890s. Help us celebrate these women who are written into movie history in *Hollywood: Her Story*.

Jill S.Tietjen and Barbara Bridges

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