



Hollywood: Her Story June 2021 ENewsletter Wedding Movies

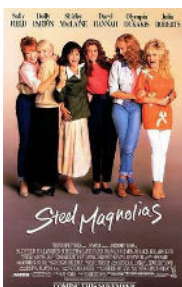
June has historically been the most popular month for weddings, in part because of its namesake. The goddess Juno was the protector of women in all aspects of life, most especially in marriage and childbearing. We extend congratulations to our co-author Barbara Bridges who recently married and thought it was timely to talk about wedding movies and the actresses who starred in them in this issue of our newsletter.



The 1950 movie *Father of the Bride* stars **Elizabeth Taylor** as the daughter who gets married, aptly in June. The premiere of the movie took place two days after Taylor married in real life for the first time. Taylor has been called one of the greatest female screen legends by the American Film Institute. She made her screen debut as a child actress in 1942 in *There's One Born Every Minute*. Her breakthrough role was in the 1944 movie *National Velvet*, when she was still a teenager. Over the course of her career, she won two Oscars (*Butterfield 8* in 1961 and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* in 1967) and was nominated for three more. Taylor was also well-known for her jewelry collection, her romances and marriages – she was married eight times to seven men. Taylor received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 1993.



Katharine Ross' breakout role was as Elaine Robinson in the 1967 movie *The Graduate* for which she was nominated for the Best Supporting Actress Oscar. In one of the most parodied and unforgettable movie endings, Benjamin (played by Dustin Hoffman) disrupts Elaine's wedding by pounding on glass and shouting her name. They escape from the wedding guests on a bus. Ross has worked in the film industry, on the stage and for television, sometimes with her husband, Sam Elliott, and has written several children's books. In the movie industry, in addition to *The Graduate*, she is known for her work in *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and *The Stepford Wives*.



Julia Roberts appeared in two movies with wedding themes – *Steel Magnolias* (1990) for which she was nominated for the Best Supporting Actress Oscar and *My Best Friend's Wedding* (1997). More than 20 of the films in which she has starred have earned at least \$100 million at the box office. She won the Best Actress Oscar in 2001 for *Erin Brockovich*. Her other Oscar nominations include one for Best Actress in *Pretty Woman* and for Best Supporting Actress in *August: Osage County*. Through most of the 1990s and the early 2000s, Roberts was the highest paid actress in the world.

Actress, writer, director and producer **Nia Vardalos** starred in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* for which she was nominated for the 2003 Best Writing, Original Screenplay Oscar. It became one of the highest grossing independent films of all time as well as the number one romantic comedy of all time. Vardalos has worked on stage, on television and in the movie industry. She has voiced several roles in animated movies as well.



The most nominated actress in Academy Award history with twenty-one nominations, **Meryl Streep** appeared as the leading character in the 2008 movie *Mamma Mia!* which is built around the plot construct that Streep's character's daughter is getting married. Streep debuted in the 1977 movie *Julia*. Her first Oscar win was in 1980 for Best Supporting Actress in *Kramer vs. Kramer*. Her other wins are for Best Actress in *Sophie's Choice* and *The Iron Lady*. Streep says, "I speak out about women because I am one. I see inequities and disparity in pay at the very top of our industry and at the bottom. And I see it in every industry and across cultures . . . I don't think about 'empowering women' – it's about embracing humanity." Writer, director and producer Nora Ephron paid a tribute to Streep, "I highly recommend having Meryl Streep play you . . . She plays all of us better than we play ourselves. Although it's a little depressing knowing that if you want to audition to play yourself you would lose out to her. Some days, when I'm having a bad day, I call up Meryl and she'll come and she'll step in for me. She's so good, people don't really notice. I call her at the end of the day and find out how I did, and inevitably it's one of the best days I've ever had."

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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