



Hollywood: Her Story January 2022 ENewsletter Movies Featuring Food

The recent documentary *Julia*, about chef/author/television personality Julia Child, caused us to think about movies where food features prominently in the name or in the movie itself. There are quite a few. In this newsletter, we highlight women from *Hollywood: Her Story* in this genre of movies.



Audrey Hepburn starred in the 1961 movie *Breakfast at Tiffany's* which earned her an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress. Ranked as the third-greatest female movie star in Golden-Age Hollywood by the American Film Institute, Hepburn won the Best Actress Oscar in 1954 for *Roman Holiday*. In 1993, she received the Academy's Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award. Hepburn has been featured on a U.S. postage stamp and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her work as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. **Patricia Neal**, who played a supporting role in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, was an Academy Award winning actress in 1964 for *Hud*. After recovering from a stroke suffered in 1965, Neal returned to acting and received an Academy Award nomination in 1969 for the movie *The Subject Was Roses*. Audrey Hepburn's character's hair, sunglasses and the clothing worn in

Breakfast at Tiffany's are considered iconic. Costume designer extraordinaire **Edith Head** served as the costume supervisor for the movie. Over her career, Head earned eight Academy Awards for costume design and received another twenty-seven Oscar nominations. *Breakfast at Tiffany's* won two Academy Awards out of five nominations, five Grammy awards from six nominations, and has been selected for preservation in the National Film Registry at the Library of Congress.



The 1991 movie *Fried Green Tomatoes* was based on the novel *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café* by **Fannie Flagg** and significant portions of the plot revolve around activities at the café. Flagg and **Carol Sobieski** were nominated for the Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar. **Kathy Bates**, who starred in the movie, won a Best Actress Academy Award for *Misery* in 1991. She has been nominated for three Best Supporting Actress Oscars (*Primary Colors* – 1999, *About Schmidt* – 2003, and *Richard Jewell* – 2020) and won an Emmy. **Jessica Tandy**, who made her movie debut in 1932 in British films and her Hollywood debut in 1942, became the oldest woman to win an Oscar when she took home the 1990 Best Actress Oscar for *Driving Miss Daisy*. She was nominated for Best Supporting Actress for *Fried Green Tomatoes* and won Emmys and Tonys, as well as an Oscar. **Cicely**

Tyson played the cook at the café in *Fried Green Tomatoes*. Over the course of her more than fifty-year career, Tyson was nominated for the Best Actress Oscar in 1973 for *Southern Comfort* and received an Academy Honorary Award in 2019. Stuntwoman **Tracey Keeshan Dashnaw** was active in the movie industry for more than thirty years and was the stunt double for actress Mary Louise Parker during the filming of *Fried Green Tomatoes*.



Juliette Binoche's character opens a chocolate shop in a small French town in the movie *Chocolat* (2000), which received five Academy Award nominations. Binoche was nominated for Best Actress for her role in the movie, having received the Best Supporting Actress Oscar in 1997 for *The English Patient*. **Dame Judi Dench** (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) was nominated for a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her role in *Chocolat*. This was one of her seven acting nominations, winning the Best Supporting Actress Oscar in 1999 for *Shakespeare in Love*. A highly acclaimed stage and film actress for more than six decades, Dench made her professional debut in 1957 and is still acting in movies today. British composer **Rachel Portman** is widely known for scoring movies. She was

the first female composer to win an Oscar in the Best Music, Original Score category, which was for *Emma* in 1997. Her work for *Chocolat* also resulted in an Oscar nomination as did her work for *The Cider House Rules* in 2000. In the business for more than thirty years, **Stephenie McMillan** did the set decoration for *Chocolat*. Over her career, she has received one Oscar (Best Art Direction, Set Decoration) for *The English Patient* and four more nominations in the same category for four Harry Potter movies.



Actresses **Meryl Streep** and **Amy Adams** starred in the 2009 movie *Julie and Julia* as Julia Child and Julie Powell, respectively. Based on a true story, Julie Powell decided to cook all 524 recipes in Julia Child's two-volume set *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* over 365 days. The movie is presented as a series of flashbacks between the past (when Julia Child learned to cook and wrote her masterpiece) and the present efforts of Julie Powell. Meryl Streep is the most-nominated actress in Academy history with 21 nominations and has won three acting Oscars. Amy Adams made her film debut in 1999 and has been nominated for six acting Oscars since that time. **Nora Ephron** wrote the screenplay for and directed *Julie and Julia*. Ephron was nominated for three Best Writing, Screenplay Written for the Screen Oscars over her career. This film was Ephron's last. This movie's costume designer, **Ann Roth**, has more than 100 credits and won the 1997 Best Costume Design Oscar for *The English Patient*. She has been nominated three other times, the first in 1985 for *Places in the Heart*.



Julia Roberts starred in the 2010 biographical movie *Eat Pray Love*. Roberts won a Best Actress Oscar in 2001 for *Erin Brockovich* and has received three other acting nominations. **Viola Davis**, who played Roberts's character's best friend in the movie, won the 2017 Best Supporting Actress Oscar for *Fences* and had two previous acting Oscar nominations (*The Help*, 2012 and *Doubt*, 2009). Davis was the first African American to achieve the Triple Crown of Acting (Oscar, Tony and Emmy). She said, "The only thing that separates women of color from anyone else is opportunity." **Dede Gardner**, who served as a producer for the movie, was the first female producer to win two Best Picture Oscars – *12 Years a Slave* (2014) and *Moonlight* (2017). Gardner has received four other Best Picture nominations as well.



Competing restaurants located only one hundred feet apart in a small French village is the plot construct for the 2014 movie *The Hundred-Foot Journey*. **Dame Helen Mirren** (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) starred as the proprietor of a Michelin-starred restaurant, while the other restaurant was run by an Indian family. Over her more than fifty-year career, Mirren has won the Best Actress Oscar (*The Queen*, 2007) and has been nominated three more times. The only person to achieve the Triple Crown of Acting in both the U.S. and the United Kingdom, Mirren made her first appearance with the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1966. Media mogul **Oprah Winfrey** served as one of the producers for the movie. During her work in the movie industry, Winfrey has been nominated for two Oscars and has received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award. French set decorator **Marie-Laure Valla** did the set decoration for this movie and won the 2002 Best Art Direction, Set Decoration Oscar for *Amélie*.

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*.

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