

Hollywood: Her Story June 2022 ENewsletter Movies with a Paris Focus

Barbara Bridges, co-author of *Hollywood Her Story: An Illustrated History of Women and the Movies* just returned from her pandemic-delayed honeymoon to Paris, France. What better way to celebrate than to feature movies with a Paris focus!



The 1951 musical comedy *An American in Paris* was nominated for eight Oscars. Costume designer **Irene Sharaff** won her first Oscar with this movie. Her work in film continued to be recognized through fourteen additional Oscar nominations from which she took home four more statuettes for *The King and I* (1957), *West Side Story* (1962), *Cleopatra* (1964 – shared), and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (1967). Sharaff performed her style miracles across the entire field of the performing arts – theatre, opera, dance, and film. The Theatre Development Fund Irene Sharaff Awards were established in 1993 to honor a member of the costume design community and she received the inaugural award! Subsequent award recipients were expected to embody the qualities of excellence that Sharaff demonstrated: a keen sense of color, a feeling for material and texture, an eye for shape and form, and a sure command of the craft. Sharaff said, “. . . you can acquire chic and elegance, but style itself is a rare thing.” Film editor **Adrienne Fazan** received her first Best Film Editing Oscar nomination for her work on the movie. She won the Best Film Editing Oscar in 1959 for *Gigi* (which was also set in Paris). She said of her Oscar, “It was simply another indication of a job well done.” Screenwriter George Seaton said of Fazan, “We selected Adrienne because of her reputation . . . She had an indomitable spirit. She refused to give in. I loved working with her.”



The 1954 romantic drama *The Last Time I Saw Paris* stars **Elizabeth Taylor** who 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, Taylor won two Oscars (*Butterfield 8* in 1961 and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* in 1967) and was nominated for three more. Taylor received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 1993. **Donna Reed** co-starred in the movie. She won the 1954 Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in *From Here to Eternity*. Reed grew up in Iowa and went to Los Angeles to attend college. Although she had no intention of becoming an actress, she was asked to do screen tests and signed with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) in 1941. A starlet who played love interests, she was also a popular pin-up girl during World War II and wrote response letters to the troops. **Helen Rose** did the costume design for the movie. Over the course of her career, Rose garnered more than 100 film credits, two Oscars, and eight more Oscar nominations. Her wins came for *The Bad and the Beautiful* (1953) and *I'll Cry Tomorrow* (1956).



Not all versions of the movie with the title *Moulin Rouge* have the same plot. Movies with that title were released in 1928, 1934, 1952, and 2001 and generally take place in and around Paris. **Lucille Ball** has an uncredited role as a show girl in the 1934 version. Later, Ball became beloved for her role as Lucy in the television show *I Love Lucy*, was featured on a U.S. postage stamp, and has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. **Gwen Wakeling** was the uncredited costume designer for the 1934 version. Wakeling designed costumes for forty years, was a favorite of director Cecil B. DeMille, and shared the 1951 Best Costume Designer Oscar for *Samson and Delilah*. The 2001 version of *Moulin Rouge!* starred **Nicole Kidman**, won two Oscars and was nominated for six more. Kidman won the Best Actress Oscar in 2003 for *The Hours*, has other acting Oscar nominations, and

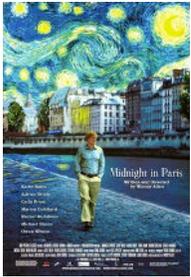
produces movies. Production designer **Catherine Martin** shared two Oscars for the 2001 version of *Moulin Rouge!* in the categories of Best Art Direction – Set Decoration and Best Costume Design. Those are two of her four Oscar wins and she has an additional two nominations. **Brigitte Broch** shared the Best Art Direction – Set Decoration with Martin for *Moulin Rouge!* They had previously shared a nomination in 1997 for *Romeo and Juliet*. **Jill Bilcock** was nominated for the Best Film Editing Oscar for the 2001 movie version. She is considered one of the leading film editors in the world and has been selected for membership in American Cinema Editors.



The 2007 Oscar-winning animated comedy film *Ratatouille* features a rat named Remy who lives in Paris and dreams of becoming a chef. **Nicole Paradis Grindle** served as a production manager for the film. A producer and visual effects artist, Grindle was nominated for the 2016 Best Short Film, Animated Oscar for *Sanjay's Super Team* and again in 2019 for Best Animated Feature Film for *Incredibles 2*. Her production credits include *The Incredibles*, *Monster University*, *Toy Story 3*, and others.



The heralded and Oscar-winning 2011 Martin Scorsese film *Hugo* tells the story of an orphan boy who lives in a train station in 1930s Paris. **Francesca Lo Schiavo** shared the art direction Oscar for the film with her husband and working partner Dante Ferretti. She has worked in the film industry for thirty-five years, won three shared Oscars in total and been nominated an additional five times. Film editor **Thelma Schoonmaker**, who received a Best Film Editing Oscar nomination for *Hugo*, has worked for director Martin Scorsese for more than fifty years. Their first collaboration came when she edited his first feature film, *Who's That Knocking at My Door*, released in 1967. Schoonmaker has earned three Oscars in the category of Best Film Editing and garnered five additional nominations. Her Oscars came for *Raging Bull* (1981), *The Aviator* (2005) and *The Departed* (2007). British costume designer **Sandy Powell** has won three Oscars and has been nominated an additional nine times, including for *Hugo*. Her Oscar wins are for *Shakespeare in Love* (1999), *The Aviator* (2005) and *The Young Victoria* (2010). Powell said, "The clothes are always made for characters. The job is not making actors look nice in clothes. It's about making actors believable as their characters, about making the story work." **Barbara De Fina** executive produced the movie. She had produced *The Color of Money* in 1986.



The Oscar-winning 2011 movie *Midnight in Paris* featured **Kathy Bates** who played Gertrude Stein. Bates won a Best Actress Academy Award for *Misery* in 1991. She has been nominated for three Best Supporting Actress Oscars for *Primary Colors* (1999), *About Schmidt* (2003), and *Richard Jewell* (2020), and won an Emmy. **Marion Cotillard**, who has a role in the film, became the first French actress to win a Best Actress Oscar for a French-speaking role (2008, *Le Vie en Rose*). **Alisa Lepselter** began editing Woody Allen's films in 1999. She served as the film editor for *Midnight in Paris*.

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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