



## Hollywood: Her Story August 2022 ENewsletter Movies Added to the National Film Registry in 2021

Twenty-five more films were added to the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress in 2021. The oldest was produced in 1902 and the newest in 2008. In this newsletter we profile women from *Hollywood: Her Story* associated with seven of those films, which are selected based on historical, cultural, and aesthetic contributions. The films are: 1930 – *Hellbound Train*, 1962 – *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?*, 1972 – *Souder*, 1983 – *Star Wars Episode VI – Return of the Jedi*, 1987 – *Who Killed Vincent Chin?*, 2001 – *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*, and 2008 – *WALL-E*.



The 1930 movie *Hellbound Train* was directed and written by **Eloyce Gist** who has been characterized as the first African American filmmaker. An actress as well as a director and writer, she shared the movie credits with her husband James Gist. Each of their movies had a strong moral focus and spiritual mission. The theme for *Hellbound Train* was temperance. Their 1933 movie *Verdict Not Guilty* was a crime drama documentary which was a commentary on the justice system, often shown by the NAACP. She is also known for the 1935 movie *Heaven-Bound Traveler* which depicted a battle between good and evil. .



**Bette Davis** and **Joan Crawford** starred in the 1962 movie *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?* Davis, who was nominated for the Best Actress Oscar for her role in the movie, played an aging child star tormenting her wheelchair bound sister (Crawford) in their decrepit mansion. Named one of the greatest actresses in movie history by the American Film Institute, Davis was the first female president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and was also the first woman to receive a Lifetime Award from the American Film Institute. She won two Best Actress Oscars over the course of her career – *Dangerous* (1936) and *Jezebel* (1939) – and received nine nominations, including the one for this movie. She often played unsympathetic characters. Crawford is also ranked as one of the greatest actresses in movie history by the American Film

Institute. She received the Best Actress Oscar in 1946 for *Mildred Pierce*. Costume designer **Norma Koch** won the Best Costume Design, Black and White Oscar for her work on *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?* She received two additional nominations over the course of her multi-decade career.



**Cicely Tyson** starred in the 1972 movie *Souder* for which she was nominated for the Best Actress Oscar. The movie chronicles a Depression-era African American family living in Louisiana and Tyson plays the mother. Tyson acted for more than fifty years and received an Academy Honorary Award in 2019. Her television and stage work led her to both Tony and Emmy awards.

The third installment of the Star Wars movies, the 1983 *Star Wars Episode VI – Return of the Jedi* again starred **Carrie Fisher** as Princess Leia, the role for which she will always be remembered by the movie-going public. **Marcia Lucas** co-edited the movie. Lucas shared the 1978 Best Film Editing Oscar for *Star Wars*. She had

previously been nominated for the Best Film Editing Oscar in 1974 for *American Graffiti*.



Director, producer, and cinematographer **Christine Choy** was nominated for the 1989 Best Documentary Feature Oscar for *Who Killed Vincent Chin?* Trained originally as an architect, Choy became a filmmaker and said, “I just began to make films, and most films I make deal with social change. Some people classify me as a ‘political filmmaker’ – and I’m not sure that’s a correct label. I always get classified as either one category or another. It started with ‘immigrant,’ later on became ‘Asian’ later on became ‘woman of color’ ‘minority.’”



The first of the Lord of the Rings trilogy, the 2001 film *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings* was written by a trio that included **Fran Walsh** and **Philippa Boyens**. A New Zealand-born screenwriter, producer and lyricist, Walsh has been nominated for seven Oscars and won three, most associated with the Lord of the Rings trilogy. Boyens is also from New Zealand and is a screenwriter and producer. She is the recipient of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her service to the film industry. She has won one writing Oscar and been nominated a second time, both for her work associated with the Lord of the Rings trilogy. **Cate Blanchett** acted in the movie. Blanchett received her first Oscar in 2005 for Best Supporting Actress for her work in *The Aviator* and won the Best Actress Oscar in 2014 for *Blue Jasmine*, with

five more Oscar acting nominations. New Zealand costume designer **Ngila Dickson** was nominated for the Best Costume Design Oscar for this movie. In 2004, she won the Best Costume Design Oscar for her work on another of the movies in the Lord of the Rings trilogy and was also nominated in that same year for her work on the costumes for *The Last Samurai*.



The 2008 movie *WALL-E* told the story of a robot who unintentionally takes a space journey. Actress **Sigourney Weaver** provided the voice for the ship’s computer. Weaver’s more than five-decade career continues today. To date, she has received three Oscar acting nominations for *Aliens* (1987), *Gorillas in the Mist* (1989), and *Working Girl* (1989).

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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