



## Hollywood: Her Story October 2022 ENewsletter Voice Actresses

When the movies started in the late 1800s, there was no sound; hence the name – the silent film era. Actresses who worked in the movies at the time portrayed emotions and feelings without voices. Some silent film era actresses became voice actresses when the technology for talkies and animated movies was developed, providing only their voices while not appearing on the screen at all. These voice actresses, then and now, usually combine their voice acting with their on-screen acting in their movie careers.



After the death of their mother, actress **Ruth Clifford** moved with her sister to Los Angeles to live with their aunt who was an actress. Clifford began her career as an extra and had her first credited movie appearance when she was 16 in 1916. She became a star after appearing in *A Kentucky Cinderella* in 1917. She played leads and second leads during the silent film era, but her appeal diminished once talkies were introduced. From 1942 to 1952, she served as the voice for Disney's Minnie Mouse and shared the role of voicing Daisy Duck.

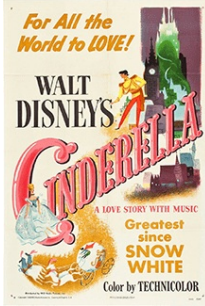


Actress and voice actress **Mae Questel** began her career in vaudeville. After she was spotted by animator Max Fleischer, she began providing the voice for Betty Boop. Between 1931 and 1939, she voiced 50 animated shorts for Betty Boop. From 1933 to 1938, Questel provided the voice for Olive Oyl, starting with the "I Eats Me Spinach" episode. She even provided the voice for Popeye himself during episodes that were produced during World War II. In addition to providing voices for a number of other characters, including members of the Flintstone family and Casper the friendly ghost, Questel had bit roles in movies including *Funny Girl* and *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*.



**Lucille La Verne** worked on Broadway for four decades as an actress, playwright, and director and gave more than 3,000 performances. She made her film debut in 1915 and had more than 40 credits before she retired. In her final film, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, which was Disney's first animated film (1937), she voiced both the Queen and the Witch.

Voice actress **Lucille Bliss** was known as the "Girl with the Thousand Voices." Her first character was the evil stepsister Anastasia in the 1950 animated movie *Cinderella*. She worked in film and television for more than 50 years.



Voice actress **June Foray** had more than 300 credits during her amazing 80-year long career. She was the voice of Lucifer in the 1950 movie *Cinderella*. She voiced many familiar characters including Rocky the Flying Squirrel, Natasha Fatale, and Jokey Smurf. Foray established the Annie Award in animation and was the driving force for the institution of the Best Animated Feature Oscar. She worked in film, theater, radio, records, video games, and talking toys. Comparing her to a well-known voice actor it was said, “June Foray is not the female Mel Blanc. Mel Blanc was the male June Foray.”



A television and film actress with almost 100 credits, **Lucy Liu** played one of the three leading ladies in *Charlie's Angels* in the 2000 movie. She appeared in the *Kill Bill* movies as well as *Chicago*. She has voiced Viper in the *Kung Fu Panda* movies, Silvermist in the *Tinkerbell* series, and a variety of other characters as well.



Singer, producer, and film and television actress **Queen Latifah** was nominated for a Best Supporting Actress Oscar in 2003 for *Chicago*. She has won Grammy and Emmy awards. Queen Latifah provided the voice for Ellie the mammoth in the *Ice Age* series.



**Octavia Spencer** won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar in 2012 for *The Help*. She was nominated again in 2017 for *Hidden Figures*, making her the first African American actress to be nominated for an Academy Award after already winning one. In 2018, she was nominated for the same Oscar category for *The Shape of Water*. She has voiced roles in movies including *Zootopia*, *Dolittle* and *Onward*.

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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