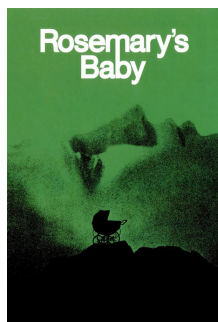


## Hollywood: Her Story May 2023 ENewsletter Celebrating Mothers

Each year in May, the U.S. celebrates Mother's Day. Thus, we decided in this month's newsletter to feature some iconic movies where motherhood was fundamental to the story.

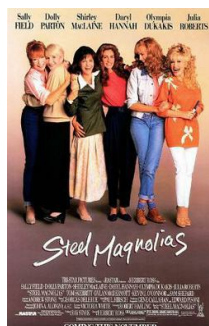


A 1968 psychological horror film, *Rosemary's Baby* features a pregnant mother who fears that her neighbors are part of a satanic cult who want to use her baby in their rituals. **Ruth Gordon** won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her performance in the film; it was her fifth Oscar nomination (in both acting and writing) and her first win. Gordon was active in the entertainment field for seventy years. She said, "Pan me, don't give me the part, publish everybody's book but this one and I will still make it! Why? Because I believe I will. If you believe, it means you've got imagination . . . you don't face facts. What can stop you? And on that awful day when someone says, 'You're not pretty, you're no good,' think of me and don't give up!" In 2014, *Rosemary's Baby* was selected to be preserved by the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress.



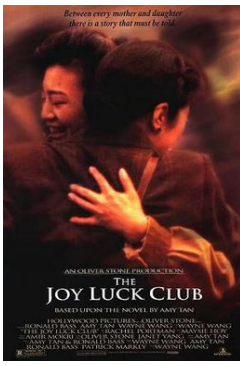
The 1983 movie *Terms of Endearment* covered thirty years of a relationship between a mother and her daughter. The mother was played by **Shirley MacLaine** and the daughter by **Debra Winger**. Both MacLaine and Winger were nominated for the Best Actress Oscar and MacLaine took home the statue. **MacLaine** began her more than sixty-year film career in 1955 after appearing in minor roles in Broadway musicals. She had been nominated for five Academy Awards before receiving the Oscar for her role in this movie. MacLaine also has an Emmy and has received the Kennedy Center Honors. **Winger** had been nominated in 1983 for the Best Actress Oscar for her role in *An Officer and a Gentleman*. She began her film career in 1976 after recovering from a car accident that left her partially paralyzed and blind for many months. **Polly Platt** shared a Best Art Direction Oscar nomination for *Terms of Endearment*. Platt was a film producer, production designer and screenwriter. She was also widely known for her mentoring: "Polly couldn't walk into a gas station and get gas without mentoring somebody. Movies are

a team sport, and she made teams function. She would assume a maternal role in terms of really being there. The film was everything and ego just didn't exist."

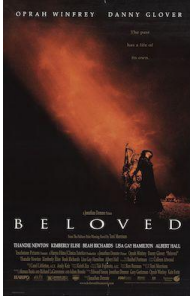


**Shirley MacLaine** also starred in the 1989 movie *Steel Magnolias* in which **Sally Field** played the mother of **Julia Roberts'** character. Set in a small Southern community, the movie examines the relationship between a group of women, including characters played by **Dolly Parton** and **Olympia Dukakis**, and how they deal with the death of one of their own. Over her almost sixty-year entertainment career, **Field** has won two Best Actress Oscars – in 1980 for *Norma Rae* and in 1985 for *Places in the Heart*. She has won an Emmy and received the National Medal of Arts and the Kennedy Center Honors. **Roberts** was nominated for the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her role in the movie. She has received an additional Best Supporting Actress nomination and one Best Actress nomination. Singer-songwriter, actress, philanthropist, and businesswoman **Parton** has been nominated for two Best Original Song Oscars. She has won multiple Grammys and

has been nominated for an Emmy as well. Parton says, "The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain." Over her more than sixty-year career, **Dukakis** has performed in hundreds of stage productions, movies, and television shows. She won a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her role as the mother in the movie *Moonstruck*.



The 1993 movie *The Joy Luck Club* portrayed relationships between Chinese immigrant women and their Chinese American daughters. **Rachel Portman** composed the music for the movie. Portman 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 *Cider House Rules* in 2000 and *Chocolat* in 2001 resulted in Oscar nominations in that same category.



The 1998 psychological horror film *Beloved* also featured music by **Rachel Portman**. Media mogul, actress, and producer **Oprah Winfrey** had the lead role as a mother whose daughter is reincarnated. Winfrey was nominated for her first Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her role in *The Color Purple* (1986). She has received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award and as a producer received a Best Picture nomination for *Selma* (2015) making her the first African American woman to be nominated for Best Picture. Winfrey has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. Costumer designer extraordinaire **Colleen Atwood** received a Best Costume Design Oscar nomination for her work on the film. Atwood has been nominated twelve times for a Best Costume Design Oscar and has won four of those times. Her wins were for *Chicago* (2003), *Memoirs of a Geisha* (2006), *Alice in Wonderland* (2010), and *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* (2017). Her career as a costume designer started by accident when the mother of someone she met was designing sets for a movie and Atwood got a job as production assistant. She later moved to costume design working on films, more than fifty to date, as well as television. The set decorator for the movie was **Karen O'Hara** who has worked in that field for more than thirty years. She shared the 2011 Best Art Direction Oscar for *Alice in Wonderland* and was previously nominated for *The Color of Money*.



**Ruby Dee** was nominated for a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her work in the 2007 movie *American Gangster* as the mother of the character played by Denzel Washington. That marked more than sixty years in the entertainment industry for Dee who first gained national recognition for her role in the 1950 movie *The Jackie Robinson Story*. In addition to being a stage and film actress, Dee was a poet, playwright, screenwriter, journalist and civil rights activist.



One of **Meryl Streep's** many roles as a mother was in the 2008 movie *Mamma Mia*. Streep is the most-nominated actress in Academy history with 21 nominations and has won three acting Oscars, the first of which was for Best Supporting Actress in the 1979 movie *Kramer vs. Kramer*. In that movie about a divorcing couple, she played the mother of a son. She won the Best Actress Oscar for her role as a mother in the 1982 movie *Sophie's Choice*. In *Mamma Mia*, she played a single mother who has raised a daughter. **Ann Roth** designed the costumes for the movie. A costume designer with more than 100 credits, Roth 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*.

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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