

Hollywood: Her Story June 2023 ENewsletter Summer Movies

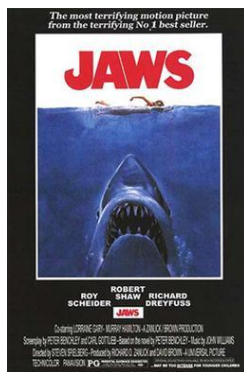
It is June. The kids are out of school and summer is upon us. For this month's newsletter, we focus on some movies where summer is used as a plot device.



The iconic shot of actress **Marilyn Monroe** in the white dress standing over the subway grate comes from the 1955 movie *The Seven Year Itch*. That movie is set during the summer. The wife and child of the man who resides in the apartment below the one Monroe's character rents while she is in town making television commercials have gone to Maine for the summer, leaving the husband to fantasize about a relationship with Monroe before decamping for Maine as well. Monroe signed her first movie contract in 1946 and was signed to a seven-year contract by 20th Century Fox after her performance in the 1950 movie *All About Eve*. She became one of the most popular sex symbols of the 1950s after her 1953 movies *Niagara* and *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. Her last movie, *The Misfits*, was in 1961. Monroe has been featured on a U.S. postage stamp.



Another 1955 movie, *Summertime*, starred **Katharine Hepburn** whose character was vacationing alone in Venice, Italy. Considered the greatest female movie star of the classic Hollywood era, Hepburn won the Best Actress Oscar for the 1968 movie *The Lion in Winter*. She played Eleanor of Aquitaine, the wife of Henry II, who was the monarch of England in the late 1100s. Over her career, Hepburn won three Best Actress Oscars and was nominated another eight times. She has been featured on a U.S. postage stamp. Hepburn said, "If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun." She also said, "If you always do what interests you, at least one person is pleased."



"Mother Cutter" veteran editor **Verna Fields** probably saved the 1975 movie *Jaws*, enabling its production. The story revolves around the hunt for a man-eating shark at a summer resort town. Fields won the Best Editor Oscar for that film and served as Vice President for Feature Production at Universal Studios. Fields worked for directors Peter Bogdanovich, George Lucas, and Steven Spielberg, among others, and was nominated for a Best Film Editing Oscar for *American Graffiti* (a movie set at the end of summer vacation). She said, "I'm enormously proud of a lot of pictures I've done. By God, I saved the picture, and I've been given credit for it. I don't think my creative input has ever been denied by the fact that the director has complete control." Of *Jaws* she reported, "I was the liaison with the studio for Steven [Spielberg]. When there was thought of ditching the picture because the shark wasn't working, I told them, 'Keep doing it, even if you need to use miniatures.'"

The 1978 movie *Grease* features two teenagers who fall for each other during a summer romance and then end up in the same high school. A song from the movie, *Hopelessly Devoted to You*, was nominated for the Best Music, Original Song Oscar. In one of her last roles, **Joan Blondell** performed as Vi, the head waitress at the Frosty Palace where the high school students hang out. Blondell's career spanned more than half a century, starting in 1930. She was



named a WAMPAS (Western Association of Motion Picture Advertisers) Baby Star in 1931. Blondell was nominated for the Best Supporting Actress Oscar in 1952 for her work in *The Blue Veil*. Actress, comedian, and writer **Fannie Flagg** appeared in *Grease* as Nurse Wilkins, the school nurse at Rydell High. Flagg shared the 1992 Best Writing, Screenplay Based on Material Previously Produced or Published Oscar for the movie *Fried Green Tomatoes*.



The 1989 film *Do the Right Thing* was set in New York City in the summer and examined racial tensions between African American residents and the Italian American owners of a pizzeria. **Ruby Dee** who starred as Mother Sister in the movie 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. The movie's costume designer **Ruth E. Carter** won her first Oscar in 2019 for *Black Panther* after receiving nominations for *Malcolm X* in 1993 and *Amistad* in 1998. Her second Best Costume Design Oscar came in 2023 for *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*. She has worked in the business for more than thirty years, has more

than forty film credits, and has done costume design for both television and movies. Her television work garnered her an Emmy nomination for the reboot of *Roots*. Carter is particularly known for her costuming work on period ensemble films. After she won her Oscar, Carter said, "... it is about sticking with it, keeping a faith and growing as an artist. This award is for resilience and I have to say that feels wonderful!!"

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

Visit Our Website

Hollywood: Her Story | 8547 E Arapahoe Road, PMB J189, Greenwood Village, CO 80112

[Unsubscribe jill.s.tietjen@gmail.com](mailto:jill.s.tietjen@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by jill.s.tietjen@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!