



## Hollywood: Her Story August 2023 ENewsletter Movies with Links to Italy

Both Jill and Barbara have undertaken international travel during 2023. One of those countries was Italy. This month's newsletter features movies set in Italy or where Italy plays an important role.



The 1953 movie *Roman Holiday* starring **Audrey Hepburn** was filmed entirely in Rome. It tells the story of a young, bored princess who escapes the bonds of royalty and her royal obligations for a day in Rome. A critical and commercial success, the movie was nominated for ten Oscars and won three. Although not Hepburn's movie debut, it was her first major film appearance, and it earned her an Academy Award for Best Actress. Hepburn is ranked as the third-greatest female movie star in the Golden Age of Hollywood by the American Film Institute. The Belgian-born actress also played the lead role in the 1959 movie *The Nun's Story*, where her character was a nurse in the Belgian Congo. She received a Best Actress Oscar nomination for her performance. Hepburn has been featured on a U.S. postage stamp and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her work as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. Her posthumous Jean Hersholt

Humanitarian Award honored her continuous work as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador which began in the 1950s. Hepburn had been the recipient of international aid as a child after enduring the German occupation of the Netherlands where she and her family were living, and, upon her appointment in 1989, said she was grateful and wanted to give back to the organization. Her work with UNICEF included narrating children's programs in the 1950s retelling stories of the War, visits to an orphanage in Ethiopia, participation in an immunization campaign in Turkey, and visits to many other countries including Venezuela, Ecuador, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Sudan, Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Somalia. Costume designer extraordinaire **Edith Head** also won an Oscar for Best Costume Design – Black and White for her work on *Roman Holiday*. Head earned an astounding thirty-five Oscar nominations and eight Oscar wins over the course of her almost sixty-year career. Her movie career began after several years of teaching languages at the high school level when she was hired as a costume sketch artist at Paramount Pictures. After she designed Dorothy Lamour's sarong dress for the 1937 movie *The Hurricane*, Head's name became known to the public. Her first Oscar nomination came in 1949 for *The Emperor Waltz* and her last in 1978 for *Airport '77*.



A 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."

The 1999 movie *Tea with Mussolini* featured a star-studded cast including **Cher, Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, and Lily Tomlin**. The movie is set in Florence and tells the story of an orphaned Italian boy who is raised by a group of British and American women before and during World War II. A singer and actress, **Cher** won the 1988 Best Actress Oscar for her role in *Moonstruck*. She was previously nominated in 1984 for Best Supporting Actress for her work in



*Silkwood*. British actress **Judi Dench** won a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for *Shakespeare in Love* in 1999. A revered and beloved actress, Dench has received multiple Oscar nominations for Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress and has been named a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire. Also a British acting icon and a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, **Maggie Smith** won her first Best Actress Oscar in 1970 for *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. She won again in 1979 for *California Suite* and has a number of additional nominations. **Lily Tomlin** made a name for herself on television through the program *Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In*. She then began her film career and was nominated for Best Supporting Actress in 1976 for her role in *Nashville*, her first film performance. She continued to combine a stage, television, and film career that continues today. She has won Emmy and Tony Awards, a Grammy, and the Screen Actors Guild Lifetime Achievement Award. **Jenny Beavan** was one of the costume designers for the movie. In 2022, Beavan won the Oscar for Best Costume Design for *Cruella*, her third Oscar win with eight more nominations. Her previous Oscars were for *A Room with a View* (1987) and *Mad Max: Fury Road* (2016).



**Ingrid Bergman** starred in the 1954 movie *Journey to Italy*. Bergman plays the wife of a couple who come from England to a villa near Naples and whose marriage is close to collapse. Bergman won three Oscars and was the nominee for four more. Her first win came in 1945 for her performance in *Gaslight*. She is considered to be in the upper echelons of movie talent by the American Film Institute.



The 2010 movie *The Tourist* starred **Angelina Jolie**. Much of the movie is set in Venice. Jolie won the 2000 Best Supporting Actress Oscar for *Girl, Interrupted*. In 2014, she received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award for her work with the United Nations on behalf of the forcibly displaced, as well as victims of sexual violence. Jolie became the Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 2001. With that title, she visited more than 50 countries. In 2012, she became the organization's Special Envoy. In her award acceptance speech, Jolie said, "I will do as my mother asked me to do, the best as I can and be of use to others." Set decorator **Anna Pinnock** provided the set decoration for the film. In 2015, she shared the Best Production Design Oscar for *The Grand Budapest Hotel* and was also nominated for *Into the Woods*. She has four

other shared Oscar nominations. Costumer designer extraordinaire **Colleen Atwood** provided the costume design for 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.

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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