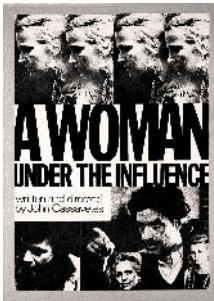




Hollywood: Her Story September 2024 ENewsletter Gena Rowlands and 1975 Oscar Contenders

Actress Gena Rowlands, twice Oscar-nominated and the recipient of an Honorary Oscar, recently died. In tribute to Rowlands and her first Oscar nomination, we profile some of the women from *Hollywood: Her Story, An Illustrated History of Women and the Movies* who were Oscar contenders or winners in 1975.



Gena Rowlands received her first Best Actress nomination in 1975 for *A Woman Under the Influence*. The movie tells the story of a woman whose unusual behavior causes conflict with her husband and family. Her mother, Lady Rowlands, her mother-in-law, Katherine Cassavetes, and her daughter, Alexandra Cassavetes, also had parts in the movie. Her husband, John Cassavetes, directed the movie and received a Best Director Oscar nomination. She acted in ten movies directed by her husband, and one directed by her son, Nick Cassavetes (*The Notebook*, 2004). Rowlands received another Best Actress nomination in 1981 for *Gloria*, which was also directed by her husband. She entertained on film, stage, and television for nearly seven decades and was the recipient of four Emmys. In 2016, Rowlands received an Honorary Oscar “in recognition of her unique screen performances.” The film has been selected for the National Film Registry of the

Library of Congress for being “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant.”



The 1975 movie *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore* garnered three Oscar nominations, including one win. It tells the story of a woman who travels the Southwestern United States with her son looking for a better life. **Ellen Burstyn** won the Best Actress Oscar for her role as Alice. A film, stage, and television actress, Burstyn has won an Oscar, Emmy, and Tony, making her one of the few to have earned the “Triple Crown of Acting.” She has five additional Oscar nominations including one for *The Exorcist*, an unexpected commercial success and the ninth highest grossing movie of all time in the U.S. and Canada (adjusted for inflation). **Diane Ladd** was nominated for the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her role in *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*. Ladd has appeared in more than 200 films and television shows and has also received Emmy nominations. She has been active in the entertainment industry for more than 60 years. **Laura Dern**, Diane Ladd's daughter, appeared in the movie in an

uncredited role. Dern has won a Best Actress Oscar and an Emmy. Her acting career has spanned four decades. **Jodie Foster** began her entertainment career as a child and appeared in this movie when she was a teenager. Foster has become an actress, director, and producer who has won two Best Actress Oscars and several additional nominations in that category as well as the Best Supporting Actress category. She said, “I've always had this idea that I wanted movies to make people better not worse.” **Marcia Lucas**, who shared the Best Film Editing Oscar for *Star Wars* in 1978, edited the movie.

Diahann Carroll was nominated for a 1975 Best Actress Oscar for her role in *Claudine*. The movie tells the story of a single woman on welfare living in Harlem who has six children and falls in love with a garbage collector. The first Black woman to win a Tony Award, Carroll was also nominated for five Emmys. She broke television's color barrier when she starred in a television show, *Julia*, built around her as the central, non-stereotypical character. Her entertainment career spanned six decades.



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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