



Hollywood: Her Story **April 2025 ENewsletter** **Colorado Women's Hall of Fame Inductees**

Congratulations to Barbara Bridges on her induction into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame. That honor came in recognition of all her efforts to support the telling of women's stories – through film, the stage, and in books. She joins her co-author Jill Tietjen who was inducted in 2010 as well as the two subjects of this month's newsletter – Hattie McDaniel (inducted 2010) and Judy Collins (inducted 2006) – two trailblazers among the many featured in our book *Hollywood: Her Story, An Illustrated History of Women and the Movies*.



In 1940, **Hattie McDaniel** was the first African American, male or female, to win an Oscar. The Best Supporting Actress award came after she appeared as Mammy in *Gone with the Wind*. McDaniel began performing – singing and acting – professionally when she was still in high school and living in Denver, Colorado. In 1925, she became the first African American woman to sing on the radio. McDaniel is believed to have appeared in more than 300 films. Typecast due to her ethnicity, she often was relegated to secondary roles – playing the maid 74 different times. She and the other African American actors from *Gone with the Wind* were prohibited from attending the film's premiere in 1939 due to the segregation in force at that time in Atlanta, Georgia. In addition, McDaniel had to be sneaked into the 1940 Oscars – held at a “No Blacks” hotel in Los Angeles – and did not get to sit at the *Gone with the Wind* table. Her remarks on her award acceptance were gracious: “I shall always hold it as a beacon for anything I may be able to do in the future. I sincerely hope that I shall always be a credit to my race and the motion picture industry.” McDaniel has been featured on a U.S. postage stamp.



Primarily known as a Grammy-winning singer, songwriter and musician, **Judy Collins** is also an Oscar-nominated film director. Collins and Jill Godmilow shared a 1975 Oscar nomination for Best Documentary Feature for *Antonia: A Portrait of the Woman*. The movie told the story of orchestra conductor, Antonia Brico (also a Colorado Women's Hall of Fame inductee), and her lifelong battle with gender bias due to her selection of profession. In 2003, the film was selected for the National Film Registry at the Library of Congress as it was deemed “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant” by the United States. Collins was born in Seattle and her family moved to Denver, Colorado when she was ten. She studied classical piano with Brico and made her musical debut when she was thirteen. But her heart was in singing and songwriting. Having now performed for almost seven decades, Collins has a musical repertoire that covers many genres and is a social activist. Her Grammy award was in folk music for her recording of the song “Both Sides Now.” Her recording of “Amazing Grace” has been preserved in the National Recording Registry of the Library of Congress.

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

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