



## Hollywood: Her Story June 2025 ENewsletter Murder on the Orient Express

Both Jill and Barbara traveled to Europe this spring and Barbara spent a night on the train, the Orient Express. That, of course, evoked for us the Agatha Christie novel, *Murder on the Orient Express*, which was adapted into movie versions in 1974 and 2017. Women from our book *Hollywood: Her Story, An Illustrated History of Women and the Movies* played many of the roles in those star-studded casts. The plot involves Christie's detective Hercule Poirot who investigates a murder that occurred overnight on the train and there are many suspects.



The 1974 version was nominated for six Oscars and received one – **Ingrid Bergman** won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar. Bergman's co-stars included **Lauren Bacall** and **Vanessa Redgrave**. **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. **Bacall**, like Bergman, is considered to be one of the greatest film stars by the American Film Institute. She made her debut in 1944, was nominated for a Best Supporting Actress Oscar in 1997 and received an Honorary Academy

Award in 2009 "in recognition of her central place in the Golden Age of motion pictures." a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, **Redgrave** is both a stage and film actress. She is one of the few to have won a Tony, Emmy, and Oscar. She won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for *Julia* (1978) and has received five other acting nominations. **Anne V. Coates**, the film's editor, has been nominated for five Best Film Editing Oscars and won the 1963 Oscar for *Lawrence of Arabia*. In 2017, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Academy: "In her more than 60 years as a film editor, she has worked side by side with many leading directors on an impressive range of films." Coates said, "You have the courage of your convictions. When you're editing you have to make thousands of decisions every day and if you dither over them all the time, you'll never get anything done."



The 2017 version of the movie also featured many well-known names including **Penélope Cruz**, **Michelle Pfeiffer**, **Judith Dench** and **Olivia Colman**. **Cruz** is the first Spanish actress to receive an Academy Award – Best Supporting Actress in *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* (2009). Over her career, **Pfeiffer** has received three Oscar nominations – the first was in 1989 for Best Supporting Actress in *Dangerous Liaisons*. 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. **Colman** won the Best Actress Oscar in 2019 for her role as Anne, Queen of Great Britain, in *The Favourite*. Behind the scenes, the set decorators were two women who have each been nominated for a Best Art Direction Oscar for other movies – **Rebecca Alleway** and **Caroline Smith**. The costume designer for this movie, British costume designer **Alexandra Byrne** has received

a total of four Best Costume Design Oscar nominations and won the award for *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*.

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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