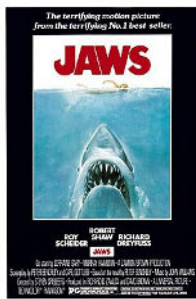


Hollywood: Her Story September 2025 ENewsletter 1975 Blockbusters and a Cult Classic

You probably know – from all the media attention – that 2025 is the 50th anniversary of the blockbuster movie *Jaws*. There were actually two blockbuster movies that year – the other being *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. A third 1975 film has become a cult classic – *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. All three movies have been determined to be “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant” by the United States Library of Congress and selected for preservation in the National Film Registry.



A movie fraught with weather and mechanical difficulties as it was being filmed, *Jaws* tells the story of a hunt for a man-eating shark off the coast of New England. The movie was nominated for four Oscars and won three: Best Sound, Best Film Editing and Best Music. Stunt woman and actress **Susan Backlinie** was the first shark attack victim, shown in the opening beach party scene. A high school swimming champion, Backlinie answered the call for someone who was willing to work in the nude and could swim in the ocean. She won the role of Chrissie performing what Steven Spielberg later called “one of the most dangerous stunts” he had ever directed. **Verna Fields** won the Best Film Editing Oscar for her work on the film. Known as “Mother Cutter” 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.” Regarding *Jaws*, she said, “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.’”



Considered one of the best films ever made, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* tells the story of a convict sent to a mental institution for an evaluation. While there, he locks horns with the domineering head nurse and encourages the other patients to be more proactive. The movie was nominated for a total of nine Oscars and won five: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress and Best Adapted Screenplay. **Louise Fletcher** won the Best Actress Oscar for her work as that domineering head nurse, Nurse Ratched. Fletcher studied drama in college and began her film career in the late 1950s. After an 11-year break to raise her children, she returned to television and film in 1974. Over the course of her many decades in the entertainment industry, she was also nominated for two Emmys and has more than 130 film credits. Film editor **Lynzee Klingman** shared a Best Editing Oscar nomination for the movie.

Klingman worked in the industry for almost four decades and taught editing at the University of Southern California. She received the Career Achievement Award from the American Cinema Editors in 2021.



Cult classic *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* featured **Susan Sarandon** as half of the rain-soaked couple who seek shelter and end up in a castle inhabited by a mad scientist and alien transvestite. The movie is still in limited release 50 years later and is the longest-running theatrical release in film history. Sarandon has been in the film industry for more than five decades herself with more than 170 film credits. She won a Best Actress Oscar for *Dead Man Walking* (1996) and was nominated for four more, including the iconic *Thelma & Louise* (1992).

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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