

Hollywood: Her Story

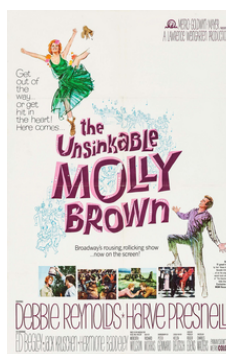
November 2025 ENewsletter

Mother-Daughter Movie Stars

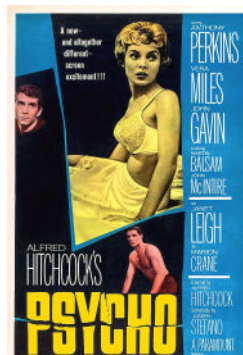
Throughout film history there have been daughters who have joined their movie-star mothers in the acting profession. We were reminded of this by the recent passing of actress Diane Ladd whose daughter, Laura Dern, also received acclaim in her acting career. Along with this duo, we also profile the mother/daughter pairs of Debbie Reynolds/Carrie Fisher and Janet Leigh/Jamie Lee Curtis.



Diane Ladd performed for almost seventy years, first appearing on television and on the stage. Her breakout movie role was as the straight-talking waitress Flo in *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore* (1975). She received the first of her three Best Supporting Actress Oscar nominations for this film. The other two were for movies in which she co-starred with her daughter, **Laura Dern**. The first of these was *Wild at Heart* (1991), which won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. The next, *Rambling Rose* (1992), also earned an Oscar nomination for Dern in the Best Actress category. Still active after fifty years in the movie business, Dern debuted in a film featuring her mother, *White Lightning* (1973). She won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar in 2020 for *Marriage Story*, and has received one additional nomination in that category (*Wild*, 2015). Dern's father, Bruce Dern, was also an Oscar nominee.



Debbie Reynolds spent more than five decades in the entertainment business, earning an Oscar nomination in 1965 for *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, and receiving Emmy and Tony nominations as well. She was presented with the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award in 2016 for her role as a founding member of The Thaliens, the charitable organization founded by entertainers in 1955 to promote the awareness and treatment of mental health issues. **Carrie Fisher** starred as Princess Leia in the original Star Wars movie trilogy—Episodes IV (1977), V (1980), and VI (1983). Leia later returned, now a general, in Episode VIII (2017). The movie-going public will always remember her in this role. Fisher received Emmy nominations and a posthumous Grammy Award. She was posthumously named a Disney Legend.



Janet Leigh was nominated for the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her work in *Psycho* (1960), a role for which she is well remembered. She had been discovered by actress **Norma Shearer** leading to a screen test at MGM and a career in which she made more than fifty movies. Her daughter, **Jamie Lee Curtis**, won the Best Actress in a Supporting Role Oscar in 2023 for her work in *Everything Everywhere All at Once*. Born as Hollywood royalty, Curtis acknowledged her parents, Janet Leigh and Tony Curtis, in her acceptance speech. Like Dern, both of Curtis's parents had been nominated for Oscars. Curtis had been known as a "scream queen" for her roles in the Halloween series and other horror movies.

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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