



Hollywood: Her Story April 2026 ENewsletter 2025 National Film Registry Selections

The 25 films selected for the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress have been announced, spanning the years from 1896 (a one minute short) to 2014 (*The Grand Budapest Hotel*). Let's take a look at some of the selected films and the women associated with them.



The Lady, released in 1925, is a silent era movie that tells the story of a showgirl who marries a British aristocrat only to be abandoned, leading to themes of maternal sacrifice and resilience as she protects her son from his grandfather's influence. The highest paid screenwriter for two decades, **Frances Marion**, who wrote the scenarios for this film, earned two Best Screenwriting Oscars and received two more nominations. She was able to make the transition from the silent film era to talkies. One of a trio of acting sisters, **Norma Talmadge** was one of the greatest film stars of the silent film era. She not only starred in this movie, but she also produced and had her production company distribute the film as well. Talmadge unfortunately was not able to make the transition to talkies. **Clare West**, the costume designer of this movie, was one of the first female costume designers in the film industry. She worked on two of the most significant movies during the silent film era: *The Birth of a Nation* and *Intolerance*.



The 1926 movie *Sparrows*, a story about a young woman who rescues a baby from kidnappers, was directed by and starred **Mary Pickford**. A beloved actress ("America's Sweetheart" and "The Girl with Curls"), she was the first movie star to own her own film company (Pickford-Fairbanks Studio) and she later helped to found United Artists with D.W. Griffith, Charlie Chaplin, and Douglas Fairbanks. She also was one of the 36 founding members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Pickford controlled the creative output of all her movies after 1919 and was the first actor, male or female, to become a millionaire. She won the Best Actress Oscar in 1930 for *Coquette*. In 1976, she received an Honorary Academy Award "In recognition of her unique contributions to the film industry and the development of film as an artistic medium." She said, "You may have a fresh start any moment you choose, for this thing that we call 'failure' is not the falling down, but the staying down."



The beloved 1954 Christmas movie, *White Christmas*, featured costumes by costume designer extraordinaire **Edith Head**. Over her career, Head earned eight Academy Awards for costume design and received another twenty-seven Oscar nominations. She became a household name in America, designed costumes for every major talent, and was personally close with most of them. Her designs become worldwide fashion. The character, Edna Mode, in the 2004 movie *The Incredibles* is believed to be an homage to her.

The 1956 comedy *High Society* tells the story of a jazz musician trying to win back the affection of his ex-wife who is preparing to marry another man. This movie was actress **Grace Kelly's** last movie before she married and became the Princess of Monaco. She had won the Best Actress Oscar in 1955 for *The Country Girl* following her nomination for Best Supporting Actress the year before for *Mogambo*. Kelly has been featured on a U.S postage stamp. Kelly's co-star, **Celeste Holm**, was a stage actress who made her film debut in 1946. She won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar in 1948 for *Gentlemen's Agreement*. **Helen Rose** did the costume design for the movie. Over the course of her career, Rose garnered more

than 100 film credits, two Oscars, and eight more Oscar nominations. Her wins came for *The Bad and the Beautiful* (1953) and *I'll Cry Tomorrow* (1956).



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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