



## ***Hollywood: Her Story*** **June 2026 ENewsletter** **Women Named June in *Hollywood: Her Story***

Summer is coming! To celebrate, we honor two women from our book named June – June Mathis and June Foray – two giants in Hollywood history.



Screenwriter **June Mathis** was the first female executive at Metro/MGM and the highest paid executive in Hollywood. Mathis began her career in vaudeville, touring with her first traveling company at age 12. She was on stage at age 17, appeared in Broadway shows, and toured in theater productions. Her theater earnings supported her mother and herself.

Mathis' first script, *House of Tears*, became a movie in 1915 and led to a contract with Metro studios in 1918. Many of the standard scriptwriting protocols are attributed to Mathis including stage directions and physical settings. By 1919, she was the head of Metro's scenario department, one of the first department heads as well as the first female executive. She is remembered for discovering Rudolph Valentino and writing such well-known movies as *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* (1921) and *Blood and Sand* (1922). In 1926, she was said to be the third most powerful woman in Hollywood after Mary Pickford and Norma Talmadge. Mathis wrote more than 100 stories. *The Magic Flame* (1927) was her last movie.



Voice actress **June Foray** had over 300 credits during her amazing 80-year long career. She performed in theatrical shorts, feature films, television, children's recordings, video games, and talking toys, among others. Growing up in Springfield, Massachusetts, she did local radio drama when she was 12 years old and by 15, she could be heard regularly on the radio. Foray had her own radio show in the late 1930s and made regular appearances on network television. She is the voice of Lucifer the Cat in the 1950 movie *Cinderella*. She voiced many familiar other characters including Natasha Fatale and Rocky the Flying Squirrel. Foray worked for Disney, Warner Brothers, Looney Tunes, and Hanna-Barbera, among others.

Foray originated the idea of awards in animation. She established the Annie Award in animation and was the driving force for the institution of the Best Animated Feature Oscar. For a time, she sat on the Board of Governors of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences. The June Foray Award was established by the International Animated Film Association in 1995. It is given to an individual in recognition of "a significant and benevolent or charitable impact on the art and industry of animation". Its inaugural recipient, in 1995, was June Foray. Said of her, "*June Foray is not the female Mel Blanc. Mel Blanc was the male June Foray.*"

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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