

carole lombard wikipedia

Carole Lombard was a prominent American actress known for her remarkable talent, stunning beauty, and her significant contributions to the film industry during the Golden Age of Hollywood. Born on October 6, 1908, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Lombard's career spanned the 1920s to the early 1940s, during which she became one of the most celebrated actresses of her time. This article explores her life, career, legacy, and the factors that contributed to her enduring popularity.

Early Life and Education

Carole Lombard, originally named Jane Alice Peters, was the third child of Frederick and Elizabeth Peters. Her family moved to Los Angeles, California, when she was just a teenager, which played a crucial role in her burgeoning career in the entertainment industry. Lombard attended the University of Southern California, though she never graduated, as her passion for acting pulled her into the world of film.

Entry into Acting

Lombard's first significant break came when she was just 12 years old, when she was cast in a short film called "The Perfect Crime" in 1921. Her early career included a mix of silent films and early talkies, where she showcased her comedic talent and charm. Some notable early films include:

- "High Voltage" (1929)
- "The Campus Vamp" (1928)
- "The Midnight Mystery" (1930)

By the early 1930s, Lombard had established herself as a leading lady in the film industry, transitioning smoothly from silent films to "talkies."

Rise to Stardom

Lombard's career truly took off in the mid-1930s when she signed with Paramount Pictures. Her roles in screwball comedies highlighted her ability to blend humor with dramatic moments, making her a favorite among audiences.

Breakthrough Films

Some of Lombard's most significant films during this period include:

1. "My Man Godfrey" (1936) - This film is often considered one of Lombard's best performances, where she starred alongside William Powell. The film is a classic screwball comedy that critiques social classes during the Great Depression.
2. "Nothing Sacred" (1937) - In this satirical film, Lombard portrayed a young woman who is diagnosed with a fatal disease but uses the publicity to her advantage. The film showcases Lombard's comedic timing and her ability to tackle serious themes with wit.
3. "To Be or Not to Be" (1942) - This film, directed by Ernst Lubitsch, is a dark comedy set during World War II where Lombard plays a Polish actress. The film was controversial for its subject matter but remains a testament to Lombard's talent.

Personal Life and Relationships

Carole Lombard's personal life was as intriguing as her professional one. She was known for her vivacious personality, sharp wit, and strong independence. In 1939, she married legendary actor Clark Gable, known as the "King of Hollywood." Their relationship was highly publicized, and they were often regarded as one of Hollywood's most glamorous couples.

Tragedy Strikes

Lombard's life took a tragic turn when she died in a plane crash on January 16, 1942. The crash occurred shortly after she had been returning from a war bond rally in Indiana, an event that highlighted her commitment to the United States during World War II. The loss of Lombard not only devastated her family and friends but also left a profound impact on the film industry and her fans.

Legacy and Impact

Carole Lombard's contributions to the film industry have left a lasting legacy. She is remembered not only for her talent but also for her roles in promoting women in comedy and challenging the traditional portrayals of women in film.

Influence on Future Generations

Many actresses who followed Lombard have cited her as an influence in their work. Her ability to blend humor with strong female characters paved the way for future comedians in film and television. Some notable actresses who have been inspired by Lombard include:

- Lucille Ball
- Doris Day
- Goldie Hawn

Recognition and Honors

In recognition of her contributions to the film industry, Lombard received several posthumous honors, including:

- Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame - Lombard was awarded her star at 6933 Hollywood Boulevard for her contributions to the film industry.
- Induction into the American Film Institute's AFI's 100 Years...100 Stars - Lombard was ranked among the greatest female stars in American cinema.

Final Thoughts

Carole Lombard's life was a tapestry of talent, charm, and tragedy. Her work in film not only entertained millions but also helped shape the landscape of American cinema. Today, she is remembered as a pioneer of the screwball comedy genre and as an actress whose performances continue to resonate with audiences around the world.

Further Reading and Exploration

For those interested in delving deeper into the life and career of Carole Lombard, consider exploring the following resources:

- Biographies: Several biographies detail Lombard's life, including her personal struggles and triumphs in Hollywood.
- Documentaries: Various documentaries about classic Hollywood often feature Lombard, showcasing her

influence on the industry.

- Film Archives: Watching her classic films provides insight into her acting style and the evolution of comedy during her time.

Carole Lombard's legacy endures, reminding us of her unique contributions to film and the lasting impact she made on the entertainment industry. Her story continues to inspire many, ensuring that her memory will not fade away with time.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was Carole Lombard?

Carole Lombard was an American film actress known for her comedic roles in the 1930s and her influence on Hollywood as one of the top box office stars of her time.

What were some of Carole Lombard's most famous films?

Some of Carole Lombard's most famous films include 'My Man Godfrey' (1936), 'To Be or Not to Be' (1942), and 'Nothing Sacred' (1937).

When was Carole Lombard born?

Carole Lombard was born on October 6, 1908.

What was the significance of Carole Lombard's marriage to Clark Gable?

Carole Lombard's marriage to Clark Gable was significant as it united two of Hollywood's biggest stars and became a symbol of romantic love in the film industry.

How did Carole Lombard die?

Carole Lombard died in a plane crash on January 16, 1942, while returning from a war bond rally.

What legacy did Carole Lombard leave behind?

Carole Lombard left behind a legacy as a pioneer of the screwball comedy genre, influencing future generations of comedians and actresses, and is remembered for her talent, beauty, and tragic early death.

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carole lombard wikipedia: And the Rest Is History Marlene Wagman-Geller, 2011-01-25 Did my heart love till now? Forswear it, sight! For I ne'er saw true beauty till tonight. -Romeo and Juliet Antony and Cleopatra, Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall, Joe DiMaggio and Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley and Priscilla Beaulieu, John Lennon and Yoko Ono-while we're familiar with all of these people as individuals, we also associate them with the grand, sometimes fiery passion they shared with their partners. And the Rest Is History is an intriguing look at how these iconoclastic lovers first crossed paths, whether it was through fate, setups, or blind luck. From angry sparks flying to love at first sight, the meetings shared in this book give us a look at what makes that one great love.

carole lombard wikipedia: Hollywood Jill Tietjen, Barbara Bridges, 2019-04-26 The year was 1896, the woman was Alice Guy-Blaché, and the film was The Cabbage Fairy. It was less than a minute long. Guy-Blaché, the first female director, made hundreds of movies during her career. Thousands of women with passion and commitment to storytelling followed in her footsteps. Working in all aspects of the movie industry, they collaborated with others to create memorable images on the screen. This book pays tribute to the spirit, ambition, grit and talent of these filmmakers and artists. With more than 1200 women featured in the book, you will find names that everyone knows and loves—the movie legends. But you will also discover hundreds and hundreds of women whose names are unknown to you: actresses, directors, stuntwomen, screenwriters, composers, animators, editors, producers, cinematographers and on and on. Stunning photographs capture and document the women who worked their magic in the movie business. Perfect for anyone who enjoys the movies, this photo-treasury of women and film is not to be missed.

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carole lombard wikipedia: The Margaret Mitchell Encyclopedia Anita Price Davis, 2014-01-10 Atlanta writer Margaret Mitchell (1900-1949) wrote *Gone with the Wind* (1936), one of the best-selling novels of all time. The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel was the basis of the 1939 film, the first movie to win more than five Academy Awards. Margaret Mitchell did not publish another novel after *Gone with the Wind*. Supporting the troops during World War II, assisting African-American students financially, serving in the American Red Cross, selling stamps and bonds, and helping others--usually anonymously--consumed her. This book reveals little-known facts about this altruistic woman. The Margaret Mitchell Encyclopedia documents Mitchell's work, her life, her impact on Atlanta, the city's memorials to her, her residences, details of her death, information about her family, the establishment of the Margaret Mitchell House against great odds, and her relationships with the Daughters of the Confederacy and the Junior League.

carole lombard wikipedia: Boulevard des crépuscules Pierre Achard, 2007-05-02 Depuis les années 60, Pierre Achard s'est aperçu que leur « dernière scène » - ou « Final-cut » - était souvent un film en soi, une tragédie secrète d'autant plus troublante que la fiction y rejoignait définitivement la réalité, que les stars y jouaient le rôle de leur vie, face à un adversaire pire que Jack Palance, Lee Van Cleef et Richard Widmark réunis : leur destin. Qu'ils n'étaient jamais aussi grands, beaux et bien sûr vrais qu'à cette seconde-là, leur dernière heure, face à l'ultime caméra, les Bogart, Flynn, Gable, Clift, Wayne, Power, Hudson, Monroe, Mansfield, Valentino, Dean, Ladd, Wood, Hepburn, etc. Et que cette dernière séquence valait d'être mise en scène, comme on écrit un roman. Presque policier, genre « enquête à Malibu », de piscine en yacht et de baignoire en boudoir, avec une centaine de victimes et un seul coupable : Hollywood. Ainsi sont racontés dans ce texte une foule de destins fabuleux, de seconds couteaux brisés, dont chacun pourrait être un film.

Connaissez-vous l'histoire de Jeff Chandler ou d'Audie Murphy ? La réalité s'est ainsi révélée bien plus spectaculaire, émouvante, cinématographique et l'écrire, c'était forcément raconter la mort d'Hollywood, le vrai, celui des années 20 à 60. Ainsi sont mises en scène ces dernières heures, l'aurore fatale ou le verre aux somnifères, les tapis verts et les roulettes russes ? Ce livre est donc consacré à un petit royaume continuellement ensoleillé, fût-ce aux sunlights, où, de temps en temps, tombait une étoile du ciel sur les trottoirs, un météore en technicolor.

carole lombard wikipedia: Built to Last 100+ Year-Old Hotels West of the Mississippi Stanley Turkel, 2017-05-23 This volume completes my three books about hundred-year-old hotels in the United States: Built to Last: 100+ Year-Old Hotels in New York (2009): 32 Hotels Built to Last: 100+ Year-Old Hotels East of the Mississippi (2011): 86 Hotels Built to Last: 100+ Year-Old Hotels West of the Mississippi (2017): 60 Hotels This trilogy describes 178 hotels in the United States that are each more than a hundred years old and fifty rooms or larger. The fascinating stories about their creation and the people who nurtured them represent great American business history. They should be a required reading for every hotel owner, general manager, hotel employee, and student of hotel management. Every hotel in the country should have copies on hand to distribute to hotel guests.

carole lombard wikipedia: Haunted Long Beach 2 Claudine Burnett, 2010-08-25 Claudine Burnett, author of popular Murderous Intent and Strange Sea Tales Along the Southern California Coast, has at last revised and updated the long out of print Haunted Long Beach. New stories and updates have come her way since the original Haunted Long Beach was published in 1996. Now readers can rediscover the ghostly side of one of America's finest cities---haunted houses, phantom airplanes, cemetery apparitions, and ghosts of the Queen Mary come alive in these true stories of eerie happenings in Long Beach, California. Gathered from historical files and personal experiences, Ms. Burnett has researched these stories extensively to try to find historical evidence as to their cause. All in all, these ghostly tales are sure to entertain both visitors and residents alike.

carole lombard wikipedia: Power Couples in Antiquity Anne Bielman Sánchez, 2019-03-26 Everyone can name a couple made up of famous, rich, or powerful partners, who cultivate a joint media image which is stronger than either of their individual identities. Since the 1980s they have been known as power couples. Yet while the term is recent, the concept is not. More than 2,000 years ago, Greeks and Romans became aware of the media potential of couples and used it as an instrument to reinforce political power. Notable examples are Philip II of Macedonia and Olympias, Cleopatra and Mark Antony, or the Emperor Augustus and his wife Livia. Power Couples in Antiquity brings together the reflections of ten specialists on Greek and Roman power couples from the fourth century BCE to the first century CE. It is focused on the birth and the development of the ruling couple in the Hellenistic Greek kingdoms and in Rome between the end of the Republic and the beginning of the Empire. By taking some emblematic cases, this book analyses the redistribution of public and private roles within these couples, examines the sentimental bonds or the relations of domination established between partners, explores how these relationships played out in private, and highlights the many common points between ancient and contemporary power couples. This book offers a fascinating insight into power dynamics in the ancient world, exploring not only the subtleties within these often complex relationships, but also their relationships with their subjects through the cultivation and manipulation of their joint public image.

carole lombard wikipedia: All the Presidents' Money Megan Gorman, 2024-09-24 A journey through the personal money stories of the US presidents and how they built wealth—or didn't. Was Harry Truman really our poorest president or simply a man up at 2 a.m. struggling with financial anxiety? Did Calvin Coolidge get bad advice from his stockbroker to buy stocks in 1930 as the market continued to crash? Is it true George Washington enhanced his net worth by marrying up? We often think of the US presidents as being above the fray. But the truth is, the presidents are just like us—worried about money, trying to keep a budget, and chasing the American financial dream. While some presidents like Herbert Hoover and Gerald Ford became wildly successful with money, others like Thomas Jefferson and Joe Biden struggled to sustain their lifestyle. The ability to win the presidency is no guarantee of financial security, although today it's a much easier path to monetize.

In *All the Presidents' Money*, tax attorney and wealth manager Megan Gorman takes us on a journey to understand the different personal money stories of the presidents. Grit, education, and risk are just some of the different ways that the presidents over the last 250 years have made (or lost) money. With lively storytelling and rigorous research, *All the Presidents' Money* reveals how some of the greatest leaders are the worst money managers and our least favorite presidents are good at making money.

carole lombard wikipedia: Focus On: 100 Most Popular Actresses from New York City Wikipedia contributors,

carole lombard wikipedia: Playbills to Photoplays New England Vintage Film Society Inc., 2010-12-01 They were pioneers in the most glamorous business in the world, and you only know half of their story. *Playbills To Photoplays* reveals colorful episodes in the lives of the stars before they became stars. Everyone saw them, but few knew where they came from. This collection of essays follows some of the most famous names in show business from Vaudeville and Broadway to Hollywood, revealing a part of their lives that movie historians have neglected -- until now. I think this book is terrific. It's a must read for any fan of the silver screen, and the days when movie stars were real stars. - Morgan Loew, great-grandson of Adolph Zukor, founder, Paramount Pictures, and Marcus Loew, founder, Loews Theaters and MGM. Ms. Loew's choice of performers to write about is amazingly diverse and fascinating, from character actors like Conrad Veidt to major stars like Katharine Hepburn. She has written a most compelling book about their transitions from stage to film... many of the stories new to me. Wonderful! - Joan Benny, daughter of comedian, Jack Benny, one of America's greatest entertainment icons of the 20th century, whose career included vaudeville, radio, movies and television. A nice compilation of essays on film stars who made the transition from the stage to early talkies with essays on Al Jolson, Mae West, Eddie Cantor, Harpo Marx, Spencer Tracy, Clark Gable, Charley Grapewin, Ed Wynn, and the Morgans (Frank and Ralph). Some essays were much better than others - I loved the one on the Morgans, Burns and Allen, Harpo Marx, and Katharine Hepburn... I would highly recommend the book as it gives you a good idea what vaudeville and the Broadway stage was like in the early 20's and what it was about these stars that allowed them to make the transition. -Librarything.combig stars as well as a raft of character actors, and decorated with dozens of striking photos...perceptive close-ups that make for vibrant film criticism...engaging profiles of Old Hollywood icons... - Kirkus Performers attempting to breakthrough will find this book inspirational! - An Aspiring Actor Motion pictures with recorded sound --known as talking pictures, or talkies--signaled the end of silent films and created some of the greatest entertainment icons of the twentieth century. *Playbills To Photoplays: Stage Performers Who Pioneered the Talkies* introduces a new generation to the real life struggles and careers of talented, hard working, early twentieth century vaudeville and stage entertainers who migrated to sound film. Twenty-eight essays and over one hundred photographs examine the actors before, during, and after the revolutionary new sound film technology catapulted many of them to superstardom during Hollywood's Golden Age. *Playbills To Photoplays: Stage Performers Who Pioneered the Talkies* explains the social, political, economic, historical, and cultural issues that shaped each performer's body of work, acting technique, persona, and public following over time.

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carole lombard wikipedia: Keep It Fake Eric G. Wilson, 2015-05-05 Shoot straight from the

hip. Tell it like it is. Keep it real. We love these commands, especially in America, because they appeal to what we want to believe: that there's an authentic self to which we can be true. But while we mock Tricky Dick and Slick Willie, we're inventing identities on Facebook, paying thousands for plastic surgeries, and tuning in to news that simply verifies our opinions. Reality bites, after all, and becoming disillusioned is a downer. In his new book *Keep It Fake: Inventing an Authentic Life*, Eric G. Wilson investigates this phenomenon. He draws on neuroscience, psychology, sociology, philosophy, art, film, literature, and his own life to explore the possibility that there's no such thing as unwavering reality. Whether our left brains are shaping the raw data of our right into fabulous stories or we're so saturated by society's conventions that we're always acting out prefab scripts, we can't help but be phony. But is that really so bad? We're used to being scolded for being fake, but Wilson doesn't scold--because he doesn't think we need to be reprimanded. Our ability to remake ourselves into the people we want to be, or at least remake ourselves to look like the people we want to be, is in fact a magical process that can be liberating in its own way. Because if we're all a bunch of fakes, shouldn't we embrace that? And if everything really is fake, then doesn't the fake become real--really? In lively prose--honest, provocative, witty, wide-ranging (as likely to riff on Bill Murray as to contemplate Plato)--*Keep It Fake* answers these questions, uncovering bracing truths about what it means to be human and helping us turn our necessary lying into artful living.

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