

Katharine Hepburn

Standing aloft in American cinema is the iconic figure of Katharine Hepburn (1907-2003). Born to a doctor of a well established East Coast family her full name was Katharine Houghton Hepburn. From her childhood, she had been outspoken, bold and physically active. Most of her education was continued at home at Bryn Mawr, and it was in college that she began to explore the possibility of an acting career, appearing in many productions there. After College Katharine Hepburn started on to appear in Broadway shows, attracting the attention of film-makers in the early 1930s. By her third film, 'Morning Glory', she won her first Academy Award. Even in her early years in Hollywood, Katharine Hepburn was a defiant actress, often appearing in pants when they were still considered indecent for women to wear. She never participated in the endless rounds of press conferences, interviews, and other assortments expected of actresses. She returned to Broadway in 1934.

Oscar Nominations & Love Affair

Katharine Hepburn met with a difficult reception, thanks to her growing reputation for haughtiness, and after being largely deserted by Broadway audiences, she returned to California to make an assortment of commercially unsuccessful films, although she received an Oscar nomination for Alice Adams (1935). Her declining sales at the box office led to a reluctance to cast her in major films, and Katharine Hepburn returned again to Broadway, where she starred in a 1938 production of Philadelphia Story. This turned out to be the breaking point in her career, as the show became a smash hit, and she negotiated her own contract for the film version of the movie. Katharine Hepburn insisted on her choice of director and costars for the film, and when it was released in 1940, she became, once again, a Hollywood darling. It was around this time that she met Spencer Tracy, with whom she had a very successful on screen partnership, as well as a love affair that lasted until his death.

Remembering Katharine Hepburn as actress and a person

In the 1950s, Katharine Hepburn began to take more mature roles and evolved greatly as an actress. She received a number of Oscar nominations for her work on many films, including The African Queen (1951), The Rainmaker (1956), and Long Day's Journey Into Night (1962). In the 1960s, she took less film roles so that she had more time to spend with Spencer Tracy, who was very ill. They made Guess Who's Coming To Dinner, their last film together, in 1967, for which she later won an Oscar. In 1968, with The Lion In Winter, Katharine Hepburn took home another Oscar. Katharine Hepburn continued to star in a variety of films until the 1990s, when she withdrew from public life because of her increasing weak health. When she passed away in 2003, most of the film world mourned over the death of a great Hollywood legend. She is remembered well for being an excellent actress, acting in over 50 feature films, beginning in 1932 with Bill of Divorcement. Katharine Hepburn was a remarkable woman as well, taking control of her career in an era in which most women were not outspoken about their lives. Katharine Hepburn was politically and socially active, and was never afraid of her status quo getting disturbed.

About the Author

Jag is a contributor to a leading celebrities website. The website features celebrity photos, wallpapers, screensavers and wallpapers. For more information about please visit <http://www.celebs101.com>

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