

THE  TIMES

Screen goddesses from Greta Garbo to Ava Gardner: look but don't touch



Greta Garbo: "I live like a monk: with one toothbrush, one cake of soap, and a pot of cream." Fox Photos/Getty Images

Annette Walter

Published at 12:01AM, December 18 2012

Who is said to have loved John Wayne, George Bernard Shaw and JFK? Who has appeared in 90 films? Who wanted to die with a ciggie in one hand and a whisky in the other?

1 Greta Garbo

Number of films 32

Acted for 21 years

Highest salary *Camille* (1936) and *Marie Walewska* (1937), both \$500,000

Film with highest box office takings *Grand Hotel* (1932); \$2.6 million

Greatest role *Anna Karenina* (1935)

Lovers Cecil Beaton and Erich Maria Remarque, author

Quote "I live like a monk: with one toothbrush, one cake of soap, and a pot of cream."

Death 1990 (aged 84), pneumonia and renal failure

2 Marlene Dietrich

Number of films 54

Acted for 59 years

Highest salary *Knight Without Armour* (1937), \$450,000

Film with highest box office takings *Witness for the Prosecution* (1957); \$9 million

Greatest role *Morocco* (1930)

Lovers/husbands John Wayne and allegedly George Bernard Shaw and John F. Kennedy; Rudolf Sieber (m. 1923)

Quote "Careful grooming may take 20 years off a woman's age, but you can't fool a flight of stairs."

Death 1992 (aged 90), renal failure

3 Rita Hayworth

Number of films 65 (including one TV film and and 7 uncredited films)

Acted for 38 years

Highest salary *Affair in Trinidad* (1952); \$252,000 and 25 per cent of net profit

Film with highest box office takings *Salome* (1953), \$4.75 million

Greatest role *Gilda* (1946)

Husbands Married five times

Quote "Movies were much better in the days when I was doing them."

Death 1987 (aged 68), Alzheimer's disease

4 Ava Gardner

Number of films 68

Acted for 45 years

Highest salary *55 Days at Peking* (1963), \$500,000

Film with highest box office takings *The Night of the Iguana* (1964); \$12 million

Greatest role *The Killers* (1946)

Lovers/husbands Three husbands including Frank Sinatra (m. 1951)

Quote "The day I die, I wish it to be with a cigarette in one hand and a glass of whisky in the other."

Death 1990 (aged 67), pneumonia

5 Marilyn Monroe

Number of films 33 films (including 6 uncredited or unconfirmed)

Acted for 15 years

Highest salary *Some Like It Hot* (1959), \$300,000 salary and 10 per cent gross over \$4 million

Film with highest box office takings *Some Like It Hot*; \$25 million

Greatest role *The Seven Year Itch* (1955)

Lovers/husbands Married three times. Lovers allegedly included both John and Robert Kennedy

Quote "What do I wear in bed? Why, Chanel No 5, of course."

Death 1962 (aged 36), barbiturate poisoning

6 Sophia Loren

Number of films 93 films (including 9 TV films and 3 uncredited)

Acted for 62 years

Highest salary *The Fall of the Roman Empire* (1964), \$1 million

Film with highest box office takings *Arabesque* (1966), \$5 million

Greatest role *Two Women* (1960)

Husband Carlo Ponti, whom she met when she was 15 and married twice

Quote "A woman's dress should be a barbed-wire fence: serving its purpose without obstructing the view." Age 78

7 Elizabeth Taylor

Number of films 68 (including 16 TV films/ series and 2 uncredited)

Acted for 59 years

Highest salary *The Flintstones* (1994), \$2.5 million

Film with highest box office takings *Cleopatra* (1963), \$57 million

Greatest role *BUtterfield 8*

Husbands Married eight times, including Richard Burton twice

Quote "Some of my best leading men have been dogs and horses."

Death 2011 (aged 79), heart failure

8 Brigitte Bardot

Number of films 42 (including 2 uncredited)

Acted for 21 years

Highest salary *La vérité* (1960), 70 million francs

Film with highest box office takings *Viva Maria!* (1965); \$4 million

Greatest role . . . *and God created woman* (1956)

Lovers/husbands Married four times

Quote "I am against marriage, and I don't give a fig for society." Age 78

9 Lauren Bacall

Number of films 70 (including 20 TV films or series and one uncredited)

Acted for 68 years

Highest known salary *The Shootist* (1976), \$50,000

Film with highest box office takings *Murder on the Orient Express* (1974); \$35 million

Greatest role *The Big Sleep* (1946)

Lovers/husbands Humphrey Bogart (m. 1945) and Jason Robards (m. 1961); engaged to Frank Sinatra

Quote "Naivety, thy name is me." Age 88

10 Grace Kelly

Number of films 30 (including 19 TV films or series)

Acted for 6 years

Highest salary Not available

Film with highest box office takings *Rear Window* (1954), \$36 million

Greatest role *The Country Girl* (1954)

Husband Prince Ranier III of Monaco (m. 1956)

Quote "Hollywood amuses me. Holier than thou for the public and unholy than the devil in reality." Death 1982 (aged 52), car accident

Arena: Screen Goddesses, Saturday, BBC Four, 9pm Additional reporting by Estie Goldmeier

4 comments

livefyre 🔥



Annette Walter ▾

2 people listening



		+ Follow	Post comment

Sort: **Newest** | Oldest

Christine Text

12 days ago

Oh yes, Bacall classiest of them all

[Recommend](#) [Reply](#)

Richard Callian

11 days ago

@Christine Text

Classy? Bacall? Based on what? Classic example of embellishing what the interior is based on the exterior.

All I get from her is ice. Always aware that she's trying to be sultry. She certainly didn't have a particularly good figure and the face is ice cold.

[Recommend](#) [Reply](#)

Richard Callian

December 21, 2012 12:03

Lauren Bacall, a screen goddess? I don't think so.

[Recommend](#) [Reply](#)



martin leslie

December 18, 2012 09:52

I'm getting old, I've seen them all when young but never noticed how beautiful they were till now.

1 [Recommend](#) [Reply](#)

Livefyre

© Times Newspapers Limited 2013 | Version 4.3.0.27(75265)

Registered in England No. 894646 Registered office:

3 Thomas More Square, London, E98 1XY

[My Account](#) | [RSS](#) | [Classified advertising](#) | [Display advertising](#) | [The Times Whisky Club](#)

[Privacy & Cookie Policy](#) | [Syndication](#) | [Site Map](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#) | [Contact us](#)

Share

Close

In order to read the full article, visitors must subscribe to thetimes.co.uk

[LinkedIn](#)

[Twitter](#)

Discuss this article with...

Close

Friends email

Start your conversation here

300

By continuing to use the site, you agree to the use of cookies. You can change this and find out more by following [this link](#)