

In 1896 May Irwin of Whitby, Ontario, starred in a one-minute American movie called *The Kiss*. Since then 70 Canadians have become Hollywood stars. Here they are.

CANADIAN STARS IN HOLLYWOOD

By Phil Surguy

HERE, IN DRAMATIC monochrome, and only two short days away from the 55th annual Academy Awards extravaganza, we present the 70 Canadians who over the last seven decades have glittered with varying brilliance in Hollywood's celluloid universe. Geneviève Bujold, Donald Sutherland and Margot Kidder, three contemporary Canadian stars, are here. So are Mary Pickford, Glenn Ford, Walter Pidgeon and all the other luminaries most of us know to be Canadians. And there are many surprises, people you probably had no idea were Canadians. Among them we were hoping to include Boris Karloff. But, contrary to myth, Boris turned out to have been born in England, not Kamloops, B.C.

Hollywood has, of course, always been an American industry, a non-stop celebration of American myths, expectations and values. Indians, Mounties, trappers and dance hall girls aside, the only substantial Canadian character played in an American movie by any of these actors was the father of the Dionne quintuplets. But even if the Canadians who've gone to Hollywood have never been particularly Canadian on the screen (or even in real life, spending perhaps only their first few years in this country), we've always been eager to claim them as our own, hungry for evidence that we were part of the Big Show, too.

The Canadians who actually *have* been part of the show, from Mary Pickford and Raymond Massey on, almost invariably got to Hollywood via the English and American stage. With very few exceptions there would have been little for them to do in Canada, even if they had wanted to stay. Today, Donald Sutherland, Christopher Plummer, Susan Clark and others come home to make the occasional Canadian movie, but movies are now cut and dried business deals that can be consummated anywhere in the world, and hopes of a "Hollywood North" happening here are misplaced. Hollywood was, and to some degree remains, the product of a special time and state of mind. Most of the people on these pages were there in its golden age.

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Beverly Adams

b. 1945. You may remember her in *How to Stuff a Wild Bikini* or as Lovey Kravetz in the Matt Helm thrillers of the late '60s. She retired after her marriage to the hairdresser Vidal Sassoon.

**Geneviève Bujold**

b. 1942, MONTREAL. She appeared in French and Canadian films before achieving Hollywood stardom in such films as *Anne of the Thousand Days* and *Coma*.

**Mari Aldon**

b. 1929, TORONTO. After six years of ballet in Canada and stage work in England, she went to Hollywood, where she was the female lead in a number of films,

including *Distant Drums* and *This Woman Is Dangerous*. Retired in 1955.

Dan Aykroyd

b. 1952, OTTAWA. A graduate of the Second City stage troupe in Toronto and the *Saturday Night Live* TV show, he has starred with John Belushi in *The Blues Brothers* and *Neighbors*.

**Ben Blue**

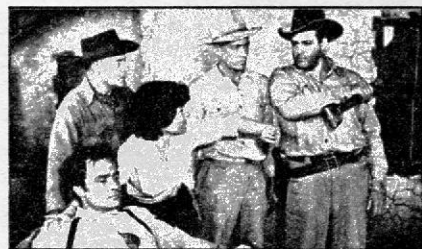
(Benjamin Bernstein) b. 1901, MONTREAL; d. 1975. A superb deadpan clown, he stuck mainly to theatre and nightclub stages, but his character cameos brightened films ranging from *The Big Broadcast of 1938* to *The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming*.

**Lloyd Bochner**

b. 1924, TORONTO. An established Canadian stage actor, he went to Hollywood to co-star in the TV series *Hong Kong*. He stayed in California, working steadily in movies and TV. Lee Marvin defenestrated him in *Point Blank* (1967).

Bobby Breen

b. 1927, TORONTO. An Eddie Cantor discovery, he starred in a dozen RKO musicals, starting with *Let's Sing Again* in 1936.



Raymond Burr b. 1917, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. Before his TV apothecoses as Perry Mason and Ironside, Burr had a 10-year film career playing heavies. That's him above right in *Secret of Treasure Mountain* (1956).

**Rod Cameron**

(Roderick Cox) b. 1910, CALGARY. Started as a stunt man and stand-in and graduated to playing the lead in low-budget action

pictures. In the late '40s and early '50s he was a cowboy hero in such movies as *The Plunderers* and *Ride the Man Down*, and there was even a Rod Cameron comic book. He has since done several TV series and appeared in German and Italian westerns. In 1960 he divorced his wife so he could marry his mother-in-law.

John Candy

b. 1951, NEWMARKET, ONTARIO. A veteran of the Second City stage and TV troupes, he has had parts in *1941* and *Stripes*, but has yet to be given the larger roles he is capable of.

**Jack Carson**

b. 1910, CARMEN, MANITOBA; d. 1963. Came to film in 1937 after a vaudeville career. Although he played many villains, he is best remembered for the burly, good-natured comic

relief he brought to dozens of movies in the '40s and '50s, among them *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Shine On Harvest Moon*.



Tom Chong
b. 1938, EDMONTON; at far left in *Nice Dreams*. Teamed up with Richard Marin in Vancouver; as Cheech and Chong, the two quickly became the dopers' dopers. Their first movie, *Up in Smoke*, grossed more than \$65 million.

Berton Churchill
b. 1876, TORONTO; d. 1940. Another dependable character actor, usually as a solid citizen. In 1932 alone, he played in more than 30 films. He was the absconding banker in John Ford's *Stagecoach* (1939).



Susan Clark
b. 1940, SARNIA, ONTARIO. Since 1967 she has worked steadily in American theatrical and TV films. She came back to Canada in 1979 to play in the Canadian-British production *Murder by Decree*.

George Cleveland
b. 1886, SYDNEY, NOVA SCOTIA; d. 1957. Played some 150 character roles, usually as a crusty old man with a soft heart, in films like *The Spoilers*, *Drums of Fu Manchu* and *Dakota*. Ended his career as Gramps in the *Lassie* television series.



John Colicos
b. 1928, TORONTO. Mainly a stage actor with occasional Hollywood film work including large parts in *Anne of the Thousand Days* and the latest version of *The Postman Always Rings Twice*.

Hume Cronyn
b. 1911, LONDON, ONTARIO. Primarily a stage actor, and a distinguished one, he has had solid roles in a number of films over the years, including *Sunrise at Campobello* and the original version of *The Postman Always Rings Twice*. He wrote the script for Hitchcock's *Rope*.



Yvonne De Carlo
(Peggy Yvonne Middleton) b. 1922, VANCOUVER. A star of the late '40s and '50s, she was Hollywood's favorite harem girl for a while and then moved on to westerns and the occasional drama. She was in *The Munsters* TV series. Now semiretired.

Katherine De Mille
(Katherine Lester) b. 1911, VANCOUVER. An orphan adopted by Cecil B. De Mille, she played supporting roles and exotic leads during the '30s and '40s. Among her credits: *Viva Villa* (1934) and *Black Gold* (1947).



Fifi D'Orsay
(Yvonne Lussier) b. 1904, MONTREAL. A typist, then a Broadway chorus girl, she starred in some of the first movie musicals (*Just Imagine* and *Silk Stockings*, for example), usually as a Parisian sexpot. Her star dimmed after 1935, but she kept busy until very recently doing occasional movie and TV work and lecturing on religion.



Marie Dressler (Leila Marie Koeber) b. 1869, COBOURG, ONTARIO; d. 1934. A light opera singer before moving on to pictures, she had her first movie role in Chaplin's *Tillie's Punctured Romance* (1914). With the advent of sound in 1929 she became one of Hollywood's most popular stars. She was the original Tugboat Annie (above) and won the best actress Oscar in 1930 for her role opposite Wallace Beery in *Min and Bill*.



Douglas Dumbrille
b. 1890, HAMILTON; d. 1974. In 1924 he sold his onion farm and turned to acting full-time. He appeared in more than 200 movies

Christopher Plummer

b. 1927, TORONTO. Truly an international star with a long list of appearances in American and British films. Remember *The Sound of Music*? In 1970 he played Wellington in the Soviet production of *Waterloo*. His notable Canadian films are *Silent Partner* and *Murder by Decree*.



Marie Prevost

(Marie Bickford Dunn) b. 1898, SARNIA, ONTARIO; d. 1937. Started as a bathing beauty and starred in bedroom farces and romantic comedies such as *Up in Mabel's Room* and *Getting Gertie's Garter*. She survived the transition to sound but couldn't manage her weight and other problems. She was found dead of malnutrition, her corpse partly eaten by her dogs.



John Qualen (John Oleson) b. 1899, VANCOUVER. One of Hollywood's most durable and popular character actors, he has been in more than 100 movies and 1,000 TV shows, usually as a decent little fellow and often a victim. He starred as the father in three pictures about the Dionne quintuplets: *The Country Doctor* (above) and *Reunion*, both 1936, and *Five of a Kind*, 1938.

James Rennie

b. 1889, TORONTO; d. 1965. A leading man of the silent era, married to Dorothy Gish, appeared with her in such films as *Clothes Make the Pirate*.



Percy Rodriguez

b. 1924, MONTREAL. His fine Canadian and American stage career was preceded by stints as a laborer, a boxer, a wrestler and

host of a children's program on the CBC's French network. In Hollywood he was in *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter* and the TV series *Peyton Place*.

Harold Russell

b. 1904, SYDNEY, NOVA SCOTIA, raised in Boston. A paratrooper who lost both hands in the Second World War, he appeared in the powerful 1946 film *The Best Years of Our Lives* and won an Oscar as the best supporting actor and another, special one for "bringing hope and courage to his fellow veterans."



Ann Rutherford

b. 1917, TORONTO. Played in B westerns with the young Gene Autry and John Wayne, then settled down as Polly Benedict, Mickey Rooney's girlfriend, in the Andy Hardy series. Retired in 1950.

Michael Sarrazin

b. 1940, QUEBEC CITY. To Hollywood via the Actors Studio in New York, then the National Film Board and American TV programs. His important films include *The Flim-Flam Man* and *They Shoot Horses Don't They?*



William Shatner

b. 1931, MONTREAL. Before becoming the star of *Star Trek*, he worked on the stage and appeared in such films as *Judgment at Nuremberg* and *The Brothers Karamazov*.

Norma Shearer

b. 1900, MONTREAL. Her air of intelligence and class and the help of her husband (Irving Thalberg, the boy wonder MGM executive) made her one of the top stars of the '20s and '30s. She won the best actress Oscar for *The Divorcee* in 1929 and five other Academy Award nominations. Retired in 1942.



(*Lives of a Bengal Lancer*, *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town*, and so on), usually as a villain or corrupt big shot.



Deanna Durbin
(Edna Mae Durbin) b. 1921, WINNIPEG. Raised in California, a superb singer, she was America's sweetheart in the late '30s. Her debut was in *Three Smart Girls*, which saved her studio from bankruptcy. In 1938 she and Mickey Rooney were given a special Oscar for "bringing to the screen the spirit and personification of youth." She retired in 1948 and moved to France.

Glenn Ford

(Gwyllyn Samuel Newton Ford) b. 1916, QUEBEC CITY. Family moved to California when he was 8. He has been the likable hero of more than 125 comedies, westerns, thrillers and dramas, among them *The Big Heat* and *Blackboard Jungle*.



Dianne Foster
(Dianne Laruska) b. 1928, EDMONTON. In the '50s and early '60s she had a solid career as the female lead in many British and American pictures, two of which

were *Gideon's Day* and *The Kentuckian*.

Chief Dan George

b. 1899, THE BURRARD RESERVE, NORTH VANCOUVER; d. 1981. A logger and longshoreman before becoming an actor in the mid-'60s, he nearly won an Oscar for his part in *Little Big Man* (1970).



Lorne Greene b. 1915, OTTAWA. It's hard to imagine him as anyone but Pa

Cartwright, but before *Bonanza* he was a CBC newscaster and then an actor in such films as *The Silver Chalice* (1954) and *Peyton Place* (1957). Seen here in *Earthquake* (1974).



Arthur Hill

b. 1922, MELFORT, SASKATCHEWAN. He went to Hollywood via the London and Broadway stage. His film credits range from *I Was a Male War Bride* (1949) to *A Bridge Too Far* (1977). He starred in the *Owen Marshall Counselor at Law* TV series.

Kathleen Howard

b. 1879; d. 1956. She sang in Europe and with the Metropolitan Opera in New York and was the fashion editor of *Harper's Bazaar* before embarking on a movie career in 1934. She played W.C. Fields's wife in two of her pictures. Above, a scene from *It's a Gift*.



Walter Huston b. 1884, TORONTO; d. 1950. Besides being a fine movie actor, he had a strong Broadway career as an actor and a singer (*September Song* was his). He won an Oscar in 1948 for his performance as the ancient prospector (above left) in *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*.



John Ireland b. 1914, VANCOUVER. Started as a professional swimmer in a water carnival. In 1945 his performance in *All the King's Men* won him a nomination for best supporting actor. He's still working, making movies in Canada and Italy. ▶



May Irwin

(May Campbell) b. 1862, WHITBY, ONTARIO; d. 1938. Not a Hollywood personality, but she starred in the world's first movie to be condemned as immoral: *The Kiss* (1896), which was nothing more than a shot of a couple kissing each other.

Lou Jacobi

b. 1913, TORONTO. A fine stage actor in Toronto, London and New York, he has played solid character roles in various films, including *Irma La Douce*, *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *Next Stop Greenwich Village*.



Victor Jory

b. 1902, DAWSON CITY, YUKON. His distinctive personality and unmistakable voice made it inevitable that he would often be cast as an evil man. He was Injun Joe in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and gave Shirley Temple a hard time in *Susannah of the Mounties*.



Robert Joy b. 1951, ST. JOHN'S. A veteran of the Newfoundland satirical troupe CODCO, he has lately been prominent in *Atlantic City*, *Ragtime* (above) and *Ticket to Heaven*.



Ruby Keeler b. 1909, HALIFAX. Moved to New York when she was 3; was once married to Al Jolson. She attained stardom in Busby Berkeley's musicals in the '30s - *42nd Street*, *Go Into Your Dance* (above) and so on. In the '70s she came out of retirement and resumed her Broadway career.



Margot Kidder b. 1948, YELLOW-KNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. Almost everyone knows her now as Superman's girlfriend. A few discerning fans remember her from the lovely, little known Irish film *Quackser Fortune Has a Cousin in the Bronx* (1970).



Alexander Knox

b. 1907, STRATHROY, ONTARIO. In 1944 he won a best actor nomination for his portrayal of the American president in *Wilson*. Eight years later he was hounded out of Hollywood by the McCarthyites. He moved to England, where he has worked steadily in films (*Accident*, *You Only Live Twice*, for example) and as a playwright and novelist.

Cec Linder

b. POLAND, 1921, raised in Timmins, Ontario. A prominent stage and film actor in England, he played Felix Leiter, the CIA agent, in *Goldfinger*. He now lives in Toronto, commuting to work in New York, Los Angeles and England.



Gene Lockhart

b. 1891, LONDON, ONTARIO; d. 1957. He could be a nice guy or a villain (Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*, 1938; Molotov in *Mission to Moscow*, 1943). He was the father of the actress June Lockhart.

Allyn Ann McLerie

b. 1926, GRAND MÈRE, QUEBEC. She moved from stage musicals to the movies in 1948. Her credits include *Where's Charley?* and *All the President's Men*.



David Manners

(Rauff de Ryther Duan Acklom) b. 1901, HALIFAX. Was the lead in such early '30s films as *The Mummy*, *Dracula* and *The Black Cat*. Retired soon afterward. Claimed descent from William the Conqueror.



Raymond Massey b. 1896, TORONTO. He went on the English stage after attending Oxford University. He played Sherlock Holmes in 1931 and 1933 and was famous for his portrayal of Abraham Lincoln in *Abe Lincoln in Illinois* (above).

**Lois Maxwell**

(Lois Ruth Hooker) b. 1927, KITCHENER, ONTARIO. Miss Money Penny in the James Bond flicks. After appearing in some Hollywood productions in the '40s, she acted in Italy and England.

She recently returned to Canada and writes a column for a Toronto tabloid.

Douglass Montgomery

b. 1908, BRANTFORD, ONTARIO; d. 1966. Known as Kent Douglass in his early movies. A leading man in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *The Cat and the Canary* and other pictures during the '30s, he moved to England in the '40s and made films there.

**Leslie Nielsen**

b. 1926, REGINA. On radio and the stage before going into films in 1955. Although he is known for his TV work, his movie credits include *Tammy and the Bachelor* and *Airplane*.



Patricia Owens b. 1925, GOLDEN, B.C. Trained as a stage actress in England, she appeared in many British and American films in the '50s and '60s, notably *Island in the Sun* and *Sayonara*.

**Cecilia Parker**

b. 1905, FORT WILLIAM, ONTARIO. She was in a lot of westerns and action pictures before being cast as Mickey Rooney's sister

Marion in the MGM Andy Hardy series of the late '30s and early '40s.



Mary Pickford (Gladys Smith) b. 1893, TORONTO; d. 1979. "The World's Sweetheart," arguably the most popular movie star ever. At 14 she was on Broadway, at 16 she was in the movies (starting with *Her First Biscuits* in 1909), and at 23 she signed a contract with Adolf Zukor that gave her \$10,000 a week, a \$300,000 bonus and a share in the profits of her pictures. She won an Oscar for *Coquette* in 1929. Her career ended when sound pictures came in. Above, Mary on the set of *Rosita* (1923), with her husband, Douglas Fairbanks, left, and the director, Ernst Lubitsch.

Walter Pidgeon

b. 1897, EAST ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK. A thoughtful leading man since the late silent era, he has played everything from Madame Curie's husband to Bulldog Drummond.





Joanna Shimkus
b. HALIFAX, 1943. After a modeling career in Europe she appeared in such films as *Boom!* and *Ho!* and *The Virgin and the Gypsy*. Married Sidney Poitier, with whom she co-starred in *The Lost Man*.



Jay Silverheels (Harold J. Smith) b. 1919, SIX NATIONS INDIAN RESERVE, ONTARIO; d. 1980. A good boxer and lacrosse player, his film credits before he hitched up as Tonto with the Lone Ranger in 1952 include *Key Largo* and *Broken Arrow*, in which he played Geronimo.

Alexis Smith

b. 1921, PENTICTON, B.C. Prominent in films of the '40s and '50s, sometimes as "the other woman," sometimes the inspiration of great men (George Gershwin in *Rhapsody in Blue*, to name one). Married to Craig (Peter Gunn) Stevens, she retired in the late '50s, then returned to the screen in 1975.



Ned Sparks
Edward A. Sparkman) b. 1883, GUELPH, ONTARIO; d. 1957. Another beloved character actor. He made his dour, contrary, sour-voiced presence felt

in scores of films of the '30s and '40s such as *The Big Noise* and *The Miracle Man*. He was the caterpillar in *Alice in Wonderland* (1933).



Alexandra Stewart b. 1939, MONT-

REAL. Has been in European, American and Canadian films since the late '50s. Some of her credits: *Tarzan the Magnificent* (1960), *Exodus* (1960), *The Bride Wore Black* (1968), *Zepelin* (1971, in photo below) and *In Praise of Older Women* (1979).

Donald Sutherland

b. 1934, SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK. Trained in England, he achieved stardom in *M*A*S*H* in 1970 and is now one of the world's top leading men, with such credits as *Klute* and *The Eagle Has Landed*.



John Vernon

b. 1932, MONTREAL. He, too, trained in England and while there provided the voice of Big Brother in the 1956 production of *1984*. After a solid career in Canadian theatre and film he went to Hollywood. Among his many credits: *Point Blank* (above), *Dirty Harry*, *The Outlaw Josey Wales* and *Animal House*.

Lucile Watson

b. 1879, QUEBEC CITY; d. 1962. One of the top character actresses of the '30s. Won an Oscar nomination for her role as Bette Davis's mom in *Watch on the Rhine* (1943).



Donald Woods

b. 1904, BRANDON, MANITOBA. Was the lead in many B pictures of the '30s and '40s, playing nice guys and solid citizens. Now a real estate broker, he still takes occasional TV and stage roles. His last screen appearance was in *True Grit* (1969).

Fay Wray

b. 1907 AT WRAYVILLE, her father's ranch, near Cardston, Alberta. She became a star in Erich von Stroheim's *The Wedding March* but is of course remembered as the girl who broke the heart of King Kong. Retired in 1942, with a comeback during the '50s.

