

## Hollywood's Greatest Stars

Embark on a cinematic journey through the ages with "Hollywood's Greatest Stars", a one-day study that will both illuminate the evolution of film acting and stardom across four pivotal periods, but also offer overview of how 'Hollywood' as an industry has evolved over the 100+ years. From the silent film era's physical comedy to the glamour of Hollywood's Golden Age, the gritty realism of New American Cinema, and the diversity of Contemporary Cinema, explore how iconic actors have shaped and reflected the cultural zeitgeist.

### **10.30am Introduction to the day & introduction of speaker**

After a showing of any film clips, audience members will be able to discuss in small groups their feelings and views on what they have seen before sharing with everyone.

### **10.45am Short Introduction: Industry Contexts Across the Four Periods**

Each era not only reflects shifts in filmmaking techniques but also cultural and societal changes that influenced the portrayal of stars on screen.

### **11am Section 1: Silent Film Period**

Explore the pioneers of the Silent Film era, where actors relied on physicality and expression to convey narratives in the absence of spoken dialogue. Highlighting the timeless contributions of Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton, who revolutionised comedy and storytelling through their distinctive personas and directorial prowess.

- **Charlie Chaplin:** Known for his iconic character, The Tramp, Chaplin's films like *The Gold Rush* (1925), *City Lights* (1931), and *Modern Times* (1936) showcased his comedic genius and social commentary.
- **Buster Keaton:** Renowned for his stoic demeanour and daring stunts, Keaton's films such as *Sherlock Jr.* (1924), *The General* (1926), and *Steamboat Bill, Jr.* (1928) remain classics of silent cinema.

*Films Together:* Chaplin and Keaton starred together in *Limelight* (1952).

### **Break**

### **12.10 Section 2: Golden Age**

Step into the glamour of Hollywood's Golden Age, where stars like Audrey Hepburn and Marilyn Monroe epitomised elegance and allure, becoming icons of their generation.

- **Audrey Hepburn:** Her breakthrough in *Roman Holiday* (1953) catapulted her to stardom, followed by unforgettable performances in *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1961), *Sabrina* (1954), and *My Fair Lady* (1964).
- **Marilyn Monroe:** From *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (1953) to *Some Like It Hot* (1959), Monroe's charisma and vulnerability defined her cinematic legacy, transcending the confines of the studio system.

*Films Together:* Although Hepburn and Monroe did not appear in any films together, Truman Capote had hoped that Monroe would be his Holly Golightly in *Breakfast at Tiffany's* rather than Hepburn.

### **1.10 – 2pm Lunch**

### **2pm Section 3: New American Cinema**

Witness the emergence of New American Cinema with actors like Robert De Niro and Al Pacino, who redefined realism and intensity on screen, reflecting the turbulent social changes of the 1960s and 1970s.

- **Robert De Niro:** Known for his transformative roles in *Taxi Driver* (1976), *Raging Bull* (1980), and *The Godfather Part II* (1974), De Niro's commitment to character depth set new standards in acting.
- **Al Pacino:** Celebrated for his roles in *The Godfather* (1972), *Dog Day Afternoon* (1975), and *Scarface* (1983), Pacino's emotive performances solidified his status as an acting powerhouse.

*Films Together:* De Niro and Pacino starred together in *Heat* (1995) and *The Irishman* (2019).

### **Break**

### **3.10 Section 4: Contemporary Cinema**

In the next section, delve into Contemporary Cinema with a focus on actors who transcend traditional roles to shape the industry. Highlighting the dynamic duo of Charlize Theron and Nicole Kidman, whose collaboration in *Bombshell* (2019) resonated with audiences and critics alike. Both actresses have leveraged their platforms not only to deliver compelling performances in films like *Monster* (Theron) and *Moulin Rouge!* (Kidman) but also to champion projects that empower women through their respective production companies.

- **Charlize Theron:** Known for her fearless portrayals in *Mad Max: Fury Road* (2015), *Atomic Blonde* (2017), and founding Denver and Delilah Productions.
- **Nicole Kidman:** Renowned for her versatile roles in *The Hours* (2002), *Big Little Lies* (2017-2019), and her influential work with Blossom Films.

### **Break**

### **4.20-5.20pm Section 5: Audience choices**

The final session of the day is for the audience. If you wish to present to the attendees, choose your favourite Hollywood actor and speak for up to five minutes on why they are, in your opinion, one of Hollywood's greatest stars. You can send a film clip suggestion to the organisers and we will endeavor to show the clip after your presentation.

### **5.20-5.30pm Final remarks and observations on the day**