

Humphrey Bogart

The following is edited from Wikipedia: Humphrey DeForest Bogart (December 25, 1899 – January 14, 1957) was an American actor and is widely regarded as a cultural icon. The American Film Institute ranked Bogart as the greatest male star in the history of American cinema.

After trying various jobs, Bogart began acting in 1921 and became a regular in Broadway productions in the 1920s and 1930s. When the stock market crash of 1929 reduced the demand for plays, Bogart turned to film. His first great success was as Duke Mantee in *The Petrified Forest* (1936), and this led to a period of typecasting as a gangster with films such as *Angels with Dirty Faces* (1938) and B-movies like *The Return of Doctor X* (1939).

Bogart's breakthrough as a leading man came in 1941, with *High Sierra* and *The Maltese Falcon*. The next year, his performance in *Casablanca* raised him to the peak of his profession and, at the same time, cemented his trademark film persona, that of the hard-boiled cynic who ultimately shows his noble side. Other successes followed, including *To Have and Have Not* (1944); *The Big Sleep* (1946); *Dark Passage* (1947) and *Key Largo* (1948), with his wife Lauren Bacall; *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre* (1948); *In a Lonely Place* (1950); *The African Queen* (1951), for which he won his only Academy Award; *Sabrina* (1954); and *The Caine Mutiny* (1954). His last movie was *The Harder They Fall* (1956). During a film career of almost thirty years, he appeared in 75 feature films.

Bogart married actress Lauren Bacall in May of 1945. The marriage proved to be a happy one, though there were the normal tensions due to their differences. He was a homebody and she liked nightlife. He loved the sea; it made her sick. Bacall allowed Bogart lots of weekend time on his boat as she got seasick. Bogart's drinking sometimes inflamed tensions.

By the mid-1950s, Bogart's health was failing.

Bogart, a heavy smoker and drinker, developed cancer of the esophagus. He almost never spoke of his failing health and refused to see a doctor until January 1956.

Bogart had just turned 57 and weighed 80 pounds when he died on January 14, 1957, after falling into a coma.