



American Legends: The Life of Katharine Hepburn

Charles River Editors

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- *Includes pictures of Hepburn and important people, places, and scenes.
- *Includes Hepburn's own quotes about her upbringing, films and relationships.
- *Includes a Bibliography for further reading.
- *Includes a Table of Contents.

"Acting is the most minor of gifts and not a very high-class way to earn a living. After all, Shirley Temple could do it at the age of four." – Katharine Hepburn

A lot of ink has been spilled covering the lives of history's most influential figures, but how much of the forest is lost for the trees? In Charles River Editors' American Legends series, readers can get caught up to speed on the lives of America's most important men and women in the time it takes to finish a commute, while learning interesting facts long forgotten or never known.

Early in her career, there was no actress more controversial than Katharine Hepburn. By the end of her career, there was no actress more beloved than Katharine Hepburn. Famously labeled "box office poison" in 1938, it is clear that Hollywood was not prepared for the young Hepburn. Yet, even after being scorned by the general public, Hepburn still retained a magnetism that would endear her to the public for decades to come, and after a tumultuous first decade as an actress, Hepburn became arguably the biggest box office sensation in the industry. Moreover, in an era when most actresses were unable to secure starring roles after reaching middle age, Hepburn remained a leading lady even after turning 60. Hepburn acted in some capacity from the start of the 1930s through the early-1990s, and it is important to view how the nature of Hepburn's roles changed from her youth to old age.

Aside from being one of the most recognized and acclaimed actresses in history, Hepburn's career is also of great importance because she forced Americans to reevaluate their expectations for female behavior, both in films themselves and off the movie set as well. As society began to pay greater attention to the importance of strong roles for women, Hepburn's career gained an even greater importance, and at a time in which women were expected to be passive, she was a fiercely individual figure who offered a daring alternative to the conventions of femininity that had long existed in American culture. Through exploring Hepburn's upbringing and family background, it is possible to gain insight into exactly how Hepburn was endowed with such an iconoclastic spirit. In addition to examining her background, this study considers the broad scope of her career, considering important factors such as how her image evolved over her career.

American Legends: The Life of Katharine Hepburn profiles the life and career of one of America's most iconic actresses. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events, you will learn about Hepburn like you never have before, in no time at all.

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