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| Penn, Arthur (1922-2010) |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| Arthur Penn was an American stage director, television producer, and filmmaker. While serving in the army, Penn became interested in theatre and directed plays for his fellow soldiers. During the 1950s, Penn’s successful run as a director of television dramas for a variety of series led to an offer to direct the feature film *The Left Handed Gun* (1958) starring Paul Newman. Throughout the 1960s, Penn alternated between film and stage work, directing some of Hollywood’s biggest stars. During this period, Penn received three Academy Award nominations for *The Miracle Worker* (1962), *Bonnie and Clyde* (1967), and *Alice’s Restaurant* (1969). *The Miracle Worker* was a film version of Penn’s Tony Award-winning Broadway production. Following this success, Penn became heavily influenced by the French New Wave and created films that captured the decade’s unrest by pushing boundaries applied to cinematic sex and violence. Though controversial, *Bonnie and Clyde* and *Alice’s Restaurant* were both critical and box office successes. Penn’s next major film was the 1970 comedy western *Little Big Man*, starring Dustin Hoffman. Though this film did not sustain the level of critical and commercial acclaim attained by his former films, Penn spent the next three decades alternating between narrative films and documentary segments. In the early 2000s, he returned to his theatre and television roots by directing successful stage productions of *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (2000) and *Fortune’s Fool* (2002), and by serving as Executive Producer for the television series *Law & Order* (2000-2001). |
| File: Arthur Penn.jpg  Arthur Penn was an American stage director, television producer, and filmmaker. While serving in the army, Penn became interested in theatre and directed plays for his fellow soldiers. During the 1950s, Penn’s successful run as a director of television dramas for a variety of series led to an offer to direct the feature film *The Left Handed Gun* (1958) starring Paul Newman. Throughout the 1960s, Penn alternated between film and stage work, directing some of Hollywood’s biggest stars. During this period, Penn received three Academy Award nominations for *The Miracle Worker* (1962), *Bonnie and Clyde* (1967), and *Alice’s Restaurant* (1969). *The Miracle Worker* was a film version of Penn’s Tony Award-winning Broadway production. Following this success, Penn became heavily influenced by the French New Wave and created films that captured the decade’s unrest by pushing boundaries applied to cinematic sex and violence. Though controversial, *Bonnie and Clyde* and *Alice’s Restaurant* were both critical and box office successes. Penn’s next major film was the 1970 comedy western *Little Big Man*, starring Dustin Hoffman. Though this film did not sustain the level of critical and commercial acclaim attained by his former films, Penn spent the next three decades alternating between narrative films and documentary segments. In the early 2000s, he returned to his theatre and television roots by directing successful stage productions of *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (2000) and *Fortune’s Fool* (2002), and by serving as Executive Producer for the television series *Law & Order* (2000-2001). Filmography as Director: *The Left Handed Gun* (1958)  *The Miracle Worker* (1962)  *The Train* (1964; uncredited; fired, replaced by John Frankenheimer)  *Mickey One* (1965) (also producer)  *The Chase* (1966)  *Bonnie and Clyde* (1967)  *Flesh and Blood* (1968)  *Alice’s Restaurant* (1969) (also screenwriter)  *Little Big Man* (1970)  *Visions of Eight* (documentary) (segment *The Highest*) (1973)  *Night Moves* (1975)  *The Missouri Breaks* (1976)  *Four Friends* (1981)  *Target* (1985)  *Dead of Winter* (1987)  *Penn & Teller Get Killed* (1989)  *Lumière and Company* – Documentary (1995; credited along with 40 other directors) Stage Productions as Director: *Two for the Seesaw* (1958)  *The Miracle Worker* (1959)  *An Evening With Mike Nichols and Elaine May* (1960)  *All the Way Home* (1960)  *Toys in the Attic* (1960)  *Golden Boy* (1964)  *Wait Until Dark* (1966)  *Sly Fox* (1976)  *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (2000)  *Fortune’s Fool* (2002) Television Productions as Director (unless otherwise noted): *Playhouse 90* (Multiple episodes) (1957-1958)  *Playwrights ‘56* (Multiple episodes) (1955-1956)  *The Philco-Goodyear Television Playhouse* (Multiple episodes) (1953-1955)  *Producers’ Showcase* (Multiple episodes) (1954-1955)  *Goodyear Playhouse* (Multiple episodes) (1953-1955)  *Justice* (Multiple episodes) (1954)  *The Gulf Playhouse* (Multiple episodes) (1953)  *The Portrait* – TV film (1993)  *Inside* – TV film (1996)  *100 Centre Street* (One episode – ‘The Fix’) (2001)  Law & Order (Executive Producer, multiple episodes) (2000-2001) |
| Further reading:  (Cawelti)  (Chaiken)  (Kindem)  (Penn)  (Segaloff)  (Wake)  (Wilk)  (Wood) |