

# June Marlowe

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**June Marlowe** (born **Gisela Valaria Goetten**, November 6, 1903 – March 10, 1984) was an American film actress<sup>[1]</sup> who began her career during the silent film era. She was best known for her performance of "Miss Crabtree" in the *Our Gang* shorts.

## Career

Marlowe was born to German parents in St. Cloud, Minnesota.<sup>[2]</sup> She was a prolific actress in silent films during the 1920s, appearing in films opposite John Barrymore and Rin Tin Tin.<sup>[3][4]</sup> She began her acting career shortly after her 1923 graduation from Hollywood High School,<sup>[5]</sup> and was signed to a contract by Warner Brothers in 1924.<sup>[6]</sup>

In 1925, she became one of the WAMPAS Baby Stars.<sup>[7]</sup> Her career did well until the introduction of talking pictures. Marlowe did not make an easy transition, and by 1930 she was starting to drift away from acting.

By chance, she happened to meet director Robert F. McGowan one day in a Los Angeles, California, department store. McGowan was searching for an actress to portray the schoolteacher in the *Our Gang* series of children's comedies. After producer Hal Roach suggested that brunette Marlowe don a blonde wig to match the hair of the lead kid in the series, Jackie Cooper, she was given the part of Miss Crabtree.

In 1928, she was an actress under contract with Universal Studios.<sup>[8]</sup>

### June Marlowe



<b>Born</b>	<div>Gisela Valaria Goetten</div> <div>November 6, 1903</div> <div><u>St. Cloud, Minnesota, U.S.</u></div>
<b>Died</b>	<div>March 10, 1984 (aged 80)</div> <div><u>Burbank, California, U.S.</u></div>
<b>Resting place</b>	<div><u>Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels</u></div>
<b>Occupation</b>	<div>Actress</div>
<b>Years active</b>	<div>1923–1932</div>
<b>Spouse</b>	<div>Rodney Sprigg</div> <div>(<span>m.</span><span> </span>1933<span>;</span><span> </span>died<span> </span>1982)</div>

Marlowe and Cooper were paired together in three *Our Gang* films, *Teacher's Pet*, *School's Out* and *Love Business*. She also had a small role in 1931's *Little Daddy*. In addition to her work in *Our Gang*, Marlowe appeared in fellow Roach stars Laurel and Hardy's first feature film, *Pardon Us*.

Marlowe's Miss Crabtree character was used in only two more shorts, 1931's *Shiver My Timbers* and 1932's *Readin' and Writin'*. After Cooper left *Our Gang* in 1931 she appeared in MGM features.

## Later years and death

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In an October 1931 notice, Washington's *Evening Star* newspaper announced that the Superior Court in Los Angeles "returned a verdict of \$100 damages to Henry M. Oviatt against June Marlowe, film actress, and her brother, Armour Marlowe, as the outgrowth of a motor car collision," adding that their automobile had "collided with one containing Oviatt and Mrs. Nellie McLaren, who sued for \$5,000 each, alleging injuries", and that "Mrs. McLaren was denied damages."<sup>[9]</sup>

On July 2, 1933, Marlowe married Hollywood businessman Rodney Sprigg and retired from motion pictures to become a housewife.<sup>[10][11][7]</sup> The couple remained married until Sprigg's death in 1982.<sup>[10]</sup> In her later years, she suffered from Parkinson's disease, dying from complications on March 10, 1984.<sup>[2]</sup>

Marlowe was originally buried at the San Fernando Mission Cemetery. She was later re-interred in the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels.<sup>[12]</sup>

## In popular culture

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Marlowe in her signature role of Miss Crabtree from the 1930 *Our Gang* short *School's Out*



Crypt of June Marlowe at the Los Angeles Cathedral

The name of Edna Krabappel, a cartoon character from the animated television series *The Simpsons*, was chosen by early *Simpsons* writers Wallace Wolodarsky and Jay Kogen in 1990 as a play on the fruit "crabapple" and as a reference to Miss Crabtree from the *Our Gang* shorts.<sup>[13]</sup>

## Filmography

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Short subject

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1924	<i>Killing Time</i>		
1924	<i>Horace Greeley, Jr.</i>		
1930	<i>Fast Work</i>	June Marlowe	
1930	<i><u>Teacher's Pet</u></i>	Miss Crabtree	
1930	<i><u>School's Out</u></i>	Miss Crabtree	
1931	<i><u>Love Business</u></i>	Miss Crabtree	
1931	<i><u>Little Daddy</u></i>	Miss Crabtree	
1931	<i><u>Shiver My Timbers</u></i>	Miss Crabtree	
1932	<i><u>Readin' and Writin'</u></i>	Miss Crabtree	

## Features

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1923	<i>Fighting Blood</i>	Minor role	Uncredited
1924	<i>When a Man's a Man</i>	Kitty Reid	
1924	<i>The Tenth Woman</i>	Rose Ann Brainherd	
1924	<i>Find Your Man</i>	Patricia Reynolds	
1924	<i>A Lost Lady</i>	Constance Ogden	
1925	<i>The Man Without a Conscience</i>	Ann Sherman	
1925	<i>Tracked in the Snow Country</i>	Joan Hardy	
1925	<i>The Wife Who Wasn't Wanted</i>	Mary Paterson	
1925	<i>Below the Line</i>	May Barton	
1925	<i>The Clash of the Wolves</i>	Sylvia Norcross	
1925	<i>The Pleasure Buyers</i>	Helen Ripley	
1926	<i>The Night Cry</i>	Mrs. John Martin	
1926	<i>Don Juan</i>	Trusia	Uncredited
1926	<i>The Old Soak</i>	Ina Heath	Lost film
1926	<i>Fangs of Justice</i>	Janet Morgan	
1927	<i>The Fourth Commandment</i>	Marjorie Miller	
1927	<i>The Life of Riley</i>	Molly O'Rourke	Lost film
1927	<i>Wild Beauty</i>	Helen Cunningham	
1927	<i>On the Stroke of Twelve</i>	Doris Bainbridge	
1928	<i>Alias the Deacon</i>	Phyllis/Mrs. Nancy Blythe	
1928	<i>Their Hour</i>	Peggy	
1928	<i>Free Lips</i>	Ann Baldrige	
1928	<i>The Branded Man</i>	Louise	
1928	<i>The Foreign Legion</i>	Gabrielle	
1928	<i>The Grip of the Yukon</i>	Sheila O'Neil	Lost film
1928	<i>Code of the Air</i>	Helen Carson	
1929	<i>The Brandenburg Arch</i>	Frieda, seine Tochter	German title: <i>Durchs Brandenburger Tor. Solang noch Untern Linden...</i>
1929	<i>The Unusual Past of Thea Carter</i>	Thea Carter	German title: <i>Die seltsame Vergangenheit der Thea Carter</i>
1930	<i>The Lone Defender</i>	Dolores Valdez	
1931	<i>Los Presidarios</i>	Warden's daughter	Uncredited
1931	<i>Pardon Us</i>	Warden's daughter	

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1932	<i>Devil on Deck</i>	Mary Moore	
1935	<i>Roaring Roads</i>	June Marlowe	

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## External links

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- June Marlowe (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0549293/>) at IMDb
  - June Marlowe (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/2488>) at Find a Grave (original burial site)
  - June Marlowe (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11443201>) at Find a Grave
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