

From the Oscar®-winning successes of *Women in Love* (1969) and *A Touch of Class* (1973) to the Emmy-winning TV role *Elizabeth R* (1971), Glenda Jackson's talent and intensity have burned through big and small screen alike. She served in parliament as a Labour MP from 1992 to 2015 and, perhaps uniquely in the annals of thespian history, made a triumphant return to stage acting at the age of 82, winning a Tony Award and an Evening Standard award. In 2019 Jackson earned a BAFTA upon her return to TV after 25 years, for her role in *Elizabeth Is Missing*.

She talks to BBC Radio 4's John Wilson.

The screen's loss was politics' gain when dominant actress Glenda Jackson successfully stood as Labour MP for Hampstead in 1992, giving herself whole-heartedly to her political responsibilities.

A bricklayer's daughter, early determined on an acting career, she trained at RADA and first appeared on stage in 1957, her big chance coming in 1964 when Peter Brook cast her as assassin Charlotte Corday in his Theatre of Cruelty production *Marat/Sade*, transferred to the screen in 1966. She would continue to appear on the stage, notably, for the RSC, as Ophelia in Peter Hall's *Hamlet* (1965), as *Hedda Gabler* (1975), filmed as *Hedda* (d. Trevor Nunn) and with Alan Howard in *Antony and Cleopatra* (1978).

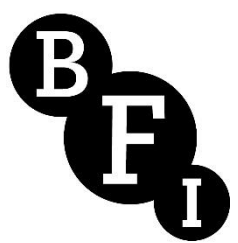
She can be spotted sitting on a piano in a party scene in *This Sporting Life* (d. Lindsay Anderson, 1963), but, apart from the RSC transfers, her film career really began with her magisterial Oscar-winning Gudrun in Ken Russell's daring adaptation of *Women in Love* (1969). Her blazing intelligence, sexual challenge and abrasiveness were at the service of a superbly written role in a film with a passion rare in the annals of British cinema.

She came to films just as the bottom was falling out of the domestic industry which makes more remarkable the roles she did get: she vies, with painful conviction (and for a British Academy Award), for a share of Murray Head's affections in *Sunday Bloody Sunday* (d. John Schlesinger, 1971); is perhaps the screen's greatest Elizabeth I, charismatic and commanding, both in *Mary, Queen of Scots* (d. Charles Jarrott, 1971) and TV's *Elizabeth R* (BBC, 1971); a sensual, whorish Emma Hamilton (making Vivien Leigh's seem like a debutante) in *Bequest to the Nation* (d. James Cellan Jones, 1973); a sardonic Sister Alexandra in *Nasty Habits* (d. Michael Lindsay-Hogg, 1976); a tautly moving figure as Stevie [Smith] (d. Robert Enders, 1978); very affecting as the dowdy housewife whose life is disrupted by *The Return of the Soldier* (d. Alan Bridges, 1982).

Virtually everything is worth noting, including her second Oscar role in *A Touch of Class* (d. Melvin Frank, 1972), the title role in *The Patricia Neal Story* (d. Anthony Harvey, 1981) and other TV including *A Murder of Quality* (d. Gavin Millar, 1991). She made a triumphant return to stage acting at the age of 82 and went on to win a BAFTA for *Elizabeth Is Missing*.

Perhaps not since the heyday of Googie Withers was there so potent a British screen actress. Jackson's brave career choices have left us a marvellous record of her immense talent.

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EVENTS

Glenda Jackson in Conversation

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GLENDA JACKSON

Born in Birkenhead

Selected filmography, all UK unless stated

FILM	TV
2021 Mothering Sunday (d. Eva Husson) as older Jane	2019 Elizabeth Is Missing (TV Movie, d. Aisling Walsh) as Maud
1990 King of the Wind (USA, d. Peter Duffell) as Queen Caroline	1995 Elizabeth R (TV Series, various directors) as Elizabeth
1989 The Rainbow (d. Ken Russell) as Anna Brangwen Doombeach (d. Colin Finbow) as Miss	1992 The Secret Life of Arnold Bax (UK/Germany, TV Movie, d. Ken Russell) as Harriet Cohen
1988 Business as Usual (d. Lezli-An Barrett) as Babs Flynn Salome’s Last Dance (UK/USA, d. Ken Russell) as Herodias / Lady Alice	1991 The House of Bernarda Alba (UK/USA, TV Movie, d. Núria Espert, Stuart Burge) as Bernarda A Murder of Quality (TV Movie, d. Gavin Millar) as Ailsa Brimley
1986 Beyond Therapy (USA, d. Robert Altman) as Charlotte	1990 T.Bag’s Christmas Ding-dong (TV Movie, d. Glyn Edwards) as Vanity Bag Carol & Company (TV Series) as Dr Doris Kruber
1985 Turtle Diary (d. John Irvin) as Neaera Duncan	1988 American Playhouse: Strange Interlude (USA/UK, TV Drama, d. Herbert Wise) as Nina Leeds
1982 The Return of the Soldier (d. Alan Bridges) as Margaret Grey Giro City (d. Karl Francis) as Sophie	1984 Sakharov (USA/UK, TV Movie, d. Jack Gold) as Yelena Bonner (Sakharova)
1980 Hopscotch (USA, d. Ronald Neame) as Isobel von Schöenberg Health (USA, d. Robert Altman) as Isabella Garnell	1981 The Patricia Neal Story (USA, TV Movie, d. Anthony Harvey) as Patricia Neal
1979 Lost and Found (d. Melvin Frank) as Tricia	1980 The Muppet Show (TV Series) as Special Guest Star
1978 The Class of Miss MacMichael (USA/UK, d. Silvio Narizzano) as Conor MacMichael Stevie (USA/UK, d. Robert Enders) as Stevie House Calls (USA, d. Howard Zieff) as Ann Atkinson	1971 Elizabeth R (TV Mini-series, various directors) as Queen Elizabeth I
1976 Nasty Habits (UK/USA, d. Michael Lindsay-Hogg) as Alexandra The Incredible Sarah (d. Richard Fleischer) as Sarah Bernhardt	1970 BBC Play of the Month: Howards End (d. Donald McWhinnie) as Margaret Schlegel
1975 Hedda (USA, d. Trevor Nunn) as Hedda The Romantic Englishwoman (UK/France, d. Joseph Losey) as Elizabeth The Maids (UK/Canada, d. Christopher Miles) as Solange	1969 ITV Sunday Night Theatre: Salve Regina (d. David Saire) as Marina Palek
1974 The Devil Is a Woman (Il sorriso del grande tentatore) (Italy/UK, d. Damiano Damiani) as Sister Geraldine	1968 Armchair Theatre: Home Movies (d. Robert Tronson) The Wednesday Play: Let’s Murder Vivaldi (d. Alan Bridges) as Julie
1973 Bequest to the Nation (d. James Cellan Jones) as Lady Hamilton	1967 Half Hour Story: Which of These Two Ladies Is He Married To? (d. Alan Clarke) as Claire Foley
1972 A Touch of Class (USA/UK, d. Melvin Frank) as Vickie Alessio The Triple Echo (d. Michael Apted) as Alice	1965 The Wednesday Play: Horror of Darkness (d. Anthony Page) as Cathy
1971 Mary, Queen of Scots (d. Charles Jarrott) as Queen Elizabeth Sunday Bloody Sunday (d. John Schlesinger) as Alex Greville The Music Lovers (d. Ken Russell) as Nina (Antonina Milyukova)	1963 Z Cars (TV Series) as WPC Fernley and Hospital Nurse
1969 Women in Love (d. Ken Russell) as Gudrun Brangwen	1961 ITV Play of the Week: Doctor Everyman’s Hour (d. Peter Graham Scott) as Jurywoman
1968 Negatives (d. Peter Medak) as Vivien	1957 ITV Play of the Week: A Voice in Vision (d. Peter Graham Scott) as Iris Jones
1967 Marat/Sade (d. Peter Brook) as Charlotte Corday Tell Me Lies: A Film about London (d. Peter Brook)	

GLENDA JACKSON

Women in Love

Sat 2 Jul 17:40; Wed 13 Jul 20:3; Fri 15 Jul 20:30

Horror of Darkness + Let’s Murder Vivaldi

Sun 3 Jul 15:20

Mary, Queen of Scots

Sun 3 Jul 18:15; Wed 20 Jul 20:30

Glenda Jackson in Conversation

Tue 5 Jul 18:15

Sunday Bloody Sunday

Tue 5 Jul 20:40; Sun 24 Jul 18:30

Hedda

Fri 8 Jul 18:00; Sat 16 Jul 16:30

A Touch of Class

Sat 9 Jul 15:15; Sat 23 Jul 20:45

The Romantic Englishwoman

Sun 10 Jul 18:10; Mon 18 Jul 20:40

Stevie

Thu 14 Jul 20:30; Sat 23 Jul 12:00

Hopscotch

Fri 15 Jul 18:00; Tue 26 Jul 20:40

House Calls

Sat 16 Jul 18:45; Fri 22 Jul 20:30

The Maids

Sat 16 Jul 20:50; Sun 24 Jul 15:50

The Rainbow

Tue 19 Jul 20:40; Sun 31 Jul 13:00

Giro City + Glenda Jackson & Politics (clip compilation)

Thu 21 Jul 17:50

Turtle Diary

Thu 21 Jul 20:50; Fri 29 Jul 20:30

Strange Interlude

Sat 23 Jul 15:30

The House of Bernarda Alba

Mon 25 Jul 17:50

Elizabeth Is Missing

Fri 29 Jul 18:15

Elizabeth R (the complete series)

Eps 1-3 Sat 30 Jul 14:20; Eps 4-6 Sun 31 Jul 14:30

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Programme notes and credits compiled by the BFI Documentation Unit

Notes may be edited or abridged. Questions/comments? Email prognotes@bfi.org.uk

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