

Here is a comprehensive list of the **Top 100 Actors from the Golden Age of Hollywood** (spanning roughly the late 1920s silent/sound transition through the early 1960s).

This list combines the American Film Institute's legends with actors who defined the era through critical acclaim, box office dominance, and enduring cultural impact.

## The Legends (1–25)

*The absolute titans who defined the studio era.*

1. **Humphrey Bogart** – The face of film noir (*Casablanca*, *The Maltese Falcon*).
2. **Katharine Hepburn** – 4 Oscar wins; fierce independence (*The African Queen*).
3. **Cary Grant** – The ultimate sophisticated leading man (*North by Northwest*).
4. **Bette Davis** – 2 Oscar wins; intense, complex dramatic power (*All About Eve*).
5. **James Stewart** – The emotional heart of American cinema (*It's a Wonderful Life*).
6. **Marlon Brando** – Revolutionized acting with The Method (*A Streetcar Named Desire*).
7. **Ingrid Bergman** – 3 Oscar wins; international acclaim (*Gaslight*, *Notorious*).
8. **Fred Astaire** – The greatest dancer in film history (*Top Hat*).
9. **Greta Garbo** – The silent-to-sound enigma (*Grand Hotel*, *Ninotchka*).
10. **Henry Fonda** – Quiet integrity and moral authority (*The Grapes of Wrath*).
11. **Clark Gable** – The "King of Hollywood" (*Gone with the Wind*).
12. **Elizabeth Taylor** – Child star turned dramatic powerhouse (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*).
13. **Audrey Hepburn** – Grace, charm, and fashion icon (*Roman Holiday*).
14. **James Cagney** – Energetic tough guy and dancer (*Yankee Doodle Dandy*).
15. **Spencer Tracy** – 2 Oscar wins; naturalistic master (*Boys Town*).
16. **Judy Garland** – A voice for the ages; tragic vulnerability (*The Wizard of Oz*).
17. **Gary Cooper** – 2 Oscar wins; the stoic American hero (*High Noon*).
18. **Joan Crawford** – From flapper to dramatic diva (*Mildred Pierce*).
19. **Charlie Chaplin** – The genius of silent comedy (*City Lights*).
20. **Marilyn Monroe** – The ultimate screen siren and comedienne (*Some Like It Hot*).
21. **Barbara Stanwyck** – Versatile pro; noir and screwball legend (*Double Indemnity*).
22. **Gregory Peck** – Dignity and justice personified (*To Kill a Mockingbird*).
23. **John Wayne** – The enduring icon of the Western (*The Searchers*).
24. **Laurence Olivier** – The Shakespearean master (*Hamlet*, *Rebecca*).
25. **Gene Kelly** – Athletic, blue-collar dance innovator (*Singin' in the Rain*).

## The Icons (26–50)

*Stars who shaped genres and defined the glamour of Hollywood.*

26. **Orson Welles** – The boy genius (*Citizen Kane*, *The Third Man*).
27. **Vivien Leigh** – 2 Oscar wins; Scarlett O'Hara & Blanche DuBois (*Gone with the Wind*).
28. **Grace Kelly** – The epitome of ice-cool elegance (*Rear Window*).
29. **Ginger Rogers** – Astaire's partner and dramatic star (*Kitty Foyle*).
30. **Claudette Colbert** – Sophisticated comedy queen (*It Happened One Night*).

31. **Marlene Dietrich** – Exotic glamour and cabaret style (*The Blue Angel*).
32. **Burt Lancaster** – Intense physical presence (*Sweet Smell of Success*).
33. **Kirk Douglas** – Gritty, intense leading man (*Spartacus*).
34. **Sophia Loren** – Italian superstar; first foreign-language Oscar winner (*Two Women*).
35. **Sidney Poitier** – Barrier-breaking dramatic lead (*In the Heat of the Night*).
36. **Alec Guinness** – The "Man of a Thousand Faces" (*The Bridge on the River Kwai*).
37. **Jack Lemmon** – Master of neurotic comedy and drama (*The Apartment*).
38. **William Holden** – Cynical, modern leading man (*Sunset Boulevard*).
39. **Lauren Bacall** – Known for "The Look" and smoky voice (*The Big Sleep*).
40. **Rita Hayworth** – The "Love Goddess" (*Gilda*).
41. **Robert Mitchum** – The soul of sleepy-eyed noir cool (*Out of the Past*).
42. **Edward G. Robinson** – The archetype of the gangster (*Little Caesar*).
43. **Olivia de Havilland** – 2 Oscar wins; steel-willed dramatic force (*The Heiress*).
44. **James Dean** – The symbol of teenage rebellion (*Rebel Without a Cause*).
45. **Shirley Temple** – The child star who saved a studio (*The Little Princess*).
46. **The Marx Brothers** – Anarchic comedy legends (*Duck Soup*).
47. **Buster Keaton** – The "Great Stone Face" of physical comedy (*The General*).
48. **Lillian Gish** – The First Lady of Silent Cinema (*The Birth of a Nation*).
49. **Mae West** – Bawdy comedy pioneer (*She Done Him Wrong*).
50. **Gloria Swanson** – Silent legend who made the ultimate comeback (*Sunset Boulevard*).

## Dramatic Giants & Box Office Kings (51–75)

Oscar magnets, matinee idols, and comedy heavyweights.

51. **Fredric March** – 2 Oscar wins; respected dramatic actor (*Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*).
52. **Charles Laughton** – Character genius (*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*).
53. **Paul Muni** – Famous for disappearing into roles (*Scarface*).
54. **Norma Shearer** – The "First Lady of MGM" (*The Women*).
55. **Greer Garson** – WWII era dramatic queen (*Mrs. Miniver*).
56. **William Powell** – Suave star of *The Thin Man* series.
57. **Myrna Loy** – The "Queen of Hollywood"; Powell's perfect partner (*The Thin Man*).
58. **Carole Lombard** – The queen of screwball comedy (*My Man Godfrey*).
59. **Jean Harlow** – The original "Platinum Blonde" (*Dinner at Eight*).
60. **Errol Flynn** – The ultimate swashbuckler (*The Adventures of Robin Hood*).
61. **Tyrone Power** – Dashing matinee idol with dramatic range (*The Mark of Zorro*).
62. **Bing Crosby** – Multimedia superstar and Oscar winner (*Going My Way*).
63. **Frank Sinatra** – The Voice; Oscar-winning actor (*From Here to Eternity*).
64. **Montgomery Clift** – Sensitive Method pioneer (*A Place in the Sun*).
65. **Richard Burton** – 7 Oscar nominations; commanding voice (*The Robe*).
66. **Peter O'Toole** – 8 Oscar nominations; exploded onto the scene in *Lawrence of Arabia*.
67. **Charlton Heston** – The face of the Hollywood Epic (*Ben-Hur*).
68. **Yul Brynner** – Commanding presence (*The King and I, The Magnificent Seven*).
69. **Anthony Quinn** – 2 Oscar wins; earthy, passionate roles (*Zorba the Greek*).

70. **Walter Brennan** – 3 Oscar wins; the ultimate character actor (*Rio Bravo*).
71. **Bob Hope** – Comedy institution (*The Road* series).
72. **W.C. Fields** – Curmudgeonly comedy icon (*The Bank Dick*).
73. **Harold Lloyd** – Silent comedy thrill-seeker (*Safety Last!*).
74. **Mary Pickford** – "America's Sweetheart"; co-founder of United Artists.
75. **Mickey Rooney** – Box office king of the late 30s/early 40s (*National Velvet*).

## The Stars (76–100)

*Beloved favorites, genre icons, and brilliant character actors.*

76. **Rock Hudson** – Romantic lead and heartthrob (*Pillow Talk*).
77. **Tony Curtis** – Versatile star of the 50s (*Some Like It Hot*, *The Defiant Ones*).
78. **Natalie Wood** – Child star to adult superstar (*West Side Story*, *Splendor in the Grass*).
79. **Doris Day** – Top box office draw; singer and comedienne (*Pillow Talk*).
80. **Rosalind Russell** – Fast-talking comedy ace (*His Girl Friday*).
81. **Irene Dunne** – 5 Oscar nominations; adept at comedy and drama (*The Awful Truth*).
82. **Loretta Young** – Oscar winner; elegant leading lady (*The Farmer's Daughter*).
83. **Jane Wyman** – Oscar winner; dramatic powerhouse (*Johnny Belinda*).
84. **Jennifer Jones** – Oscar winner (*The Song of Bernadette*).
85. **Joan Fontaine** – Oscar winner; Hitchcock blonde (*Suspicion*, *Rebecca*).
86. **Deborah Kerr** – 6 Oscar nominations (*From Here to Eternity*, *The King and I*).
87. **Gene Tierney** – Haunting beauty (*Laura*).
88. **Lana Turner** – The glamour girl of the 40s/50s (*The Postman Always Rings Twice*).
89. **Ava Gardner** – Earthy femme fatale (*The Killers*, *Mogambo*).
90. **Maureen O'Hara** – The "Queen of Technicolor" (*The Quiet Man*).
91. **Claude Rains** – 4 Oscar nominations; superb character actor (*Casablanca*).
92. **James Mason** – 3 Oscar nominations; smooth British villain/lead (*A Star Is Born*).
93. **Peter Lorre** – Distinctive noir and horror icon (*M*).
94. **Boris Karloff** – The face of horror (*Frankenstein*).
95. **Bela Lugosi** – The original *Dracula*.
96. **David Niven** – Oscar winner; quintessential English gentleman (*Separate Tables*).
97. **Ronald Colman** – Oscar winner; velvet-voiced star (*A Double Life*).
98. **Charles Boyer** – 4 Oscar nominations; French lover archetype (*Gaslight*).
99. **Ray Milland** – Oscar winner (*The Lost Weekend*).
100. **Jean Arthur** – Frank Capra's favorite actress; unique voice (*Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*).