

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*).