

= Harriet Frank , Jr . =

Harriet Frank , Jr . (born March 2 , 1917) is an American film writer and producer . Working alongside her husband , Irving Ravetch , Frank received numerous awards during her lengthy career , including the New York Film Critics Circle Awards and the Writers Guild of America Award , and several nominations . Frank and Ravetch are considered one of the all @-@ time great screenwriting couples , and many of their works are recognised classics of their genres .

Frank began her writing career after World War II , under Metro @-@ Goldwyn @-@ Mayer 's young writer 's training program , where she first met her future husband . She married Ravetch in 1946 but worked independently for ten years , finally collaborating with him in 1957 , a relationship that continued for the remainder of her career . During 33 years of collaboration , they created the screenplays for a variety of films , mainly adaptations of the works of American authors .

Frank and Ravetch maintained a close working relationship with director Martin Ritt throughout their career , collaborating with him on eight occasions ; after initially being suggested by Ravetch to direct *The Long , Hot Summer* (1958) , Ritt would eventually draw the couple out of inactivity on three occasions , hiring them to write the screenplays for *Norma Rae* (1979) , *Murphy 's Romance* (1985) and *Stanley & Iris* (1990) . The latter was both the last film directed by Ritt (who died later that year) and the last for which Frank and Ravetch wrote the screenplay .

= = Life and career = =

= = = Early life = = =

Harriet Frank , Jr. was born and raised in Portland , Oregon . While her mother worked as a Hollywood story editor , Frank attended the University of California , Los Angeles (UCLA) , at the same time as her future husband , Irving Ravetch . Having graduated at different times from UCLA , the two met in the Metro @-@ Goldwyn @-@ Mayer young writer 's training program after World War II .

The couple soon married in 1946 , but worked independently for over ten years , with Frank writing for projects such as *A Really Important Person* (1947) , *Whiplash* (1948) and *Run for Cover* (1955) . The couple first collaborated on the script of an adaptation of William Faulkner 's novel *The Hamlet* in 1957 (released as *The Long , Hot Summer*) , although Frank later said , " ... in the end , we created mostly new material , so it wasn 't really a true adaptation " .

= = = Collaborations and awards = = =

Martin Ritt , having directed *The Long , Hot Summer* on suggestion by Ravetch , then directed the couple 's next collaboration , *The Sound and the Fury* (1959) , once again an adaptation of a William Faulkner novel . In 1960 , Frank and Ravetch collaborated on two films , *Home from the Hill* , an adaptation of the novel of the same name , and *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs* , an adaptation of a Tony award @-@ winning play .

In 1963 , Frank and Ravetch reunited with Martin Ritt to write the screenplay for *Hud* , adapted from the novel *Horseman , Pass By* . The film garnered critical acclaim , with the couple sharing a New York Film Critics Circle Award for " Best Screenplay " and a Writers Guild of America Award (WGA Award) for " Best Written American Drama " . They were also nominated for an Academy Award in the category of " Best Writing , Screenplay Based on Material from Another Medium " .

In 1967 , Frank worked alongside her husband and Ritt on *Hombre* , a Revisionist Western film based on the novel of the same name . The next year , Frank and Ravetch wrote the screenplay for *House of Cards* , a mystery film directed by John Guillermin . For *House of Cards* , Frank was credited , together with her husband , under the pen name of " James P. Bonner " . In 1969 , Frank and Ravetch returned to the works of William Faulkner , writing the screenplay for a film adaptation of his last novel *The Reivers* .

1972 saw Frank and Ravetch write the screenplay for *The Cowboys* , based on the novel of the same name , and *The Carey Treatment* , based on the novel *A Case of Need* by Michael Crichton . For the latter , the couple were credited under " James P. Bonner " , the last time they would adopt the pen name . Two years later , the couple reunited once again with Martin Ritt to write the screenplay for *Conrack* , based on the autobiographical book *The Water Is Wide* , with Frank also working as producer . The film was commercially and critically well @-@ received , winning a BAFTA award . In the same year the couple wrote for an adaptation of the novel *The Bank Robber* , released as *The Spikes Gang* . Around this time , Frank also wrote two novels , *Single* : a novel (1977) , and *Special Effects* (1979) .

= = = Return to screenwriting = = =

In 1979 , following five years of inactivity , Frank and Ravetch returned to screen writing for *Norma Rae* , with Martin Ritt directing . The film tells the story of a factory worker from the Southern United States who becomes involved in labour union activities . Unusually , for the couple , the film was based on a true story , that of Crystal Lee Jordan . It was arguably their best received film , winning numerous awards , including two Academy Awards .

Six years passed before the couple returned to screen writing , this time for the romantic comedy *Murphy 's Romance* , based on a novel by Max Schott . Once again they worked with director Martin Ritt , their seventh project together , and Sally Field , who had played the titular lead role in *Norma Rae* . Despite *Murphy 's Romance* being well @-@ received (it was nominated for two Academy Awards) it would be another five years before Frank and Ravetch wrote another screenplay ; hired by Martin Ritt , the couple wrote the screenplay for *Stanley & Iris* , loosely based on the novel *Union Street* .

= = = Legacy = = =

Ten months after the release of *Stanley & Iris* , on December 8 , 1990 , Martin Ritt died . Together , the trio of Frank , Ravetch and Ritt had collaborated on eight films and achieved considerable successes . As well as being the last film Ritt worked on , *Stanley & Iris* also marked the end of Frank and Ravetch 's writing careers .

In a career spanning 43 years and 21 film productions (despite lengthy periods of absence) , Harriet Frank , Jr. won 4 awards and received many more nominations , sharing them all with her husband . As well as with her husband and Martin Ritt , Frank collaborated extensively with other well @-@ known actors , such as Paul Newman , writing for three of his film appearances (*The Long* , *Hot Summer* , *Hud* and *Hombre*) .

Many of their films not only received critical acclaim upon release , in the form of awards (*Norma Rae* and *Stanley & Iris*) , but those such as *Hud* (1963) are considered classics of their genres . The legacy of Harriet Frank , Jr. is today considered inseparable with that of her husband , Ravetch , and together they are considered one of the all @-@ time great screenwriting teams .

= = Filmography = =

= = Awards and nominations = =