
Denzel Washington is America's Favorite Movie Star

Clint Eastwood is second, followed by John Wayne and Will Smith tied for third

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – January 29, 2009 – For the third year in a row, Denzel Washington comes in on top as America's favorite movie star. Returning to the list this year at number two, after a one year absence, is Clint Eastwood. The perennial favorite, John Wayne, who died 30 years ago, is tied with Will Smith at number three.

These are the some of the results of *The Harris Poll*®, a new nationwide survey of 2,388 U.S. adults surveyed online by Harris Interactive between December 9 and 15, 2008.

Other findings include:

- With a return as Indiana Jones this past summer, Harrison Ford leaps from the number 10 spot in 2006, to off the list last year, to number 5 this year;
- Rounding out the top ten is Julia Roberts at number 6 (down from No. 4 last year), Tom Hanks at number 7 (down from number 2), Johnny Depp at number 8 (down from 3 last year), and two new additions to the list tied at number 9 – Angelina Jolie and Morgan Freeman;
- Four actors have dropped off of the list since last year – Matt Damon, Sean Connery (last year both were tied for the number 7 spot), Sandra Bullock (number 9), and Bruce Willis (number 10);
- Different groups have their favorite actors. For men, their favorite actor, Clint Eastwood, really “makes their day” while “Pretty Woman” Julia Roberts is the favorite for women;
- There are also regional differences as well – those in the East say Indiana Jones, or rather Harrison Ford, is their favorite movie actor, while Midwesterners cite Julia Roberts as their favorite. Southerners say that Denzel Washington is their favorite movie actor and Westerners, perhaps due to the large number of Westerns he starred in, say John Wayne is their favorite movie actor;
- Each generation also has a favorite movie actor. For Echo Boomers (those aged 18-31) it is one of the Men in Black, Will Smith. Generation Xers (those aged 32-43) are fans of Lara Croft, or rather Angelina Jolie, who comes in as number one for them. For Baby Boomers (those aged 44-62), Denzel Washington is number one and the favorite for Matures (those 63+) is Dirty Harry, or rather Clint Eastwood; and,
- It is not just politicians and policies that cause differences between Republicans and Democrats, it's also movie actors. The favorite for Republicans is John Wayne and the favorite for Democrats is Denzel Washington. Independents don't help break the tie – their favorite actor is Harrison Ford.

One other interesting note as the nation's first African American president moves in to the White House is that this new top ten is one of the more diverse. Three of the actors are African American and two are women.

TABLE 1**FAVORITE MOVIE STAR**

"Who is your favorite movie star?"

Unprompted responses

Base: All adults

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Denzel Washington	*	4	8	10	10	*
Clint Eastwood	1	2	4	1	=4	4
John Wayne	2	1	2	4	2	2
Will Smith	*	*	*	*	*	*
Harrison Ford	4	*	*	5	1	1
Julia Roberts	*	*	*	*	*	8
Tom Hanks	5	6	7	*	*	=5
Johnny Depp	*	*	*	*	*	*
Angelina Jolie	*	*	*	*	*	*
Morgan Freeman	*	*	*	*	*	*

*Not in top 10.

"=" prior to a number indicates a tie

TABLE 1, continued**FAVORITE MOVIE STAR**

"Who is your favorite movie star?"

Unprompted responses

Base: All adults

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Denzel Washington	=7	8	7	9	6	*	1	1	1
Clint Eastwood	5	7	8	8	8	6	1	*	2
John Wayne	2	6	6	7	7	=3	3	6	=3
Will Smith	*	*	*	*	*	*	=5	5	=3
Harrison Ford	1	3	4	=5	5	=3	10	*	5
Julia Roberts	4	1	3	2	3	5	=5	4	6
Tom Hanks	6	2	1	4	1	1	2	2	7
Johnny Depp	*	*	*	10	4	2	=7	3	8
Angelina Jolie	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	=9
Morgan Freeman	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	=9

*Not in top 10.

"=" prior to a number indicates a tie

DROPPED OUT OF TOP 10 IN 2008

Matt Damon (tied for #7), Sean Connery (tied for #7), Sandra Bullock (#9) and Bruce Willis (#10)

TABLE 2

WHICH MOVIE STAR IS #1 AMONG DIFFERENT GROUPS?

Group	Favorite Movie Star
Men	Clint Eastwood
Women	Julia Roberts
Republican	John Wayne
Democrat	Denzel Washington
Independent	Harrison Ford
Echo Boomers (18-31)	Will Smith
Gen X (32-43)	Angelina Jolie
Baby Boomers (44-62)	Denzel Washington
Matures (63+)	Clint Eastwood
East	Harrison Ford
Midwest	Julia Roberts
South	Denzel Washington
West	John Wayne

Methodology

This Harris Poll was conducted online within the United States December 9 and 15, 2008 among 2,388 adults (aged 18 and over). Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region and household income were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

All sample surveys and polls, whether or not they use probability sampling, are subject to multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate, including sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments. Therefore, Harris Interactive avoids the words "margin of error" as they are misleading. All that can be calculated are different possible sampling errors with different probabilities for pure, unweighted, random samples with 100% response rates. These are only theoretical because no published polls come close to this ideal.

Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have agreed to participate in Harris Interactive surveys. The data have been weighted to reflect the composition of the adult population. Because the sample is based on those who agreed to participate in the Harris Interactive panel, no estimates of theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

These statements conform to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

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