

LAUREN BACALL

Lauren Bacall's acting career began with Saturday morning classes at the New York School of the Theatre, followed by, at age fifteen, a year of study at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. An introduction to *Harper's Bazaar* editor Diana Vreeland led to a brief modeling career. For Bacall's second appearance in the magazine's pages, Vreeland captioned a photo with a mention of the eighteen year old's acting ambitions. The inside double page spread, and the now famous Red Cross cover shot by photographer Louise Dahl-Wolfe, caught the attention of Slim Hawks, wife of director Howard Hawks. Upon his wife's recommendation, Hawks brought Bacall to Hollywood to test for a contract and subsequently signed her. Some six months later, he tested her for the lead in his 1944 film, *To Have and Have Not*, opposite Humphrey Bogart. The couple went on to co-star in *The Big Sleep*, *Dark Passage* and director John Huston's *Key Largo*. Married in 1945, they appeared together in the 1955 live television presentation of Robert E. Sherwood's *The Petrified Forest*.

Having made her Broadway debut in a walk-on part at age 17, Bacall returned to the stage with starring roles in 1959's *Goodbye Charlie* and *Cactus Flower* in 1965. In 1970 she made a triumphant musical comedy debut as Margo Channing in *Applause!* based on the film *All About Eve*, winning her first Tony award before embarking on a year long national tour. She went on to play the role for over a year at London's West Majestic Theater, a performance recognized with an Evening Standard Award. After a 1977 summer tour of the musical *Wonderful Town*, she returned to Broadway in 1981 to star in the Peter Stone - Kander & Ebb musical *Woman of the Year*, again winning a Tony award followed by a national tour. In 1985, Ms. Bacall starred in Tennessee Williams's *Sweet Bird of Youth* at London's Haymarket Theatre directed by Harold Pinter. She then toured the play for five months across Australia. Bacall returned to Broadway in 1999 for the revival of Noel Coward's *Waiting in the Wings*.

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Her lengthy film career includes *Bright Leaf*, *How to Marry a Millionaire*, *Woman's World*, *The Cobweb*, *Blood Alley*, *Written on the Wind*, *Designing Woman*, *Flame Over India*, *Sex and the Single Girl*, *Harper*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *The Shootist*, *H.E.A.L.T.H.*, *The Fan*, *Appointment with Death*, *Mr. North*, *Tree of Hands*, *Misery*, *All I Want for Christmas*, *Ready to Wear*, *My Fellow Americans*, *Presence of Mind*, *Diamonds*, *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, which garnered her an Academy Award nomination as well as Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild awards, and most recently Lars von Triers's *Dogville* and Jonathan Glazer's *Birth*, both co-starring Nicole Kidman, and von Triers's upcoming film, *Manderlay*. In addition to *The Petrified Forest*, Bacall appeared with Claudette Colbert in a live television presentation of Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit*, co-starring and directed by Coward. Other television productions include *Dinner at Eight*, *A Foreign Field*, *From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, *Too Rich: The Secret Life of Doris Duke* and *The Portrait*, co-starring Gregory Peck. She currently finished *The Walker* directed by Paul Schrader opposite Woody Harrelson, Kristin Scott Thomas and Lily Tomlin. Also, *Wide Blue Yonder* opposite Brian Cox. Numbered among her leading men are Charles Boyer, Gary Cooper, Kirk Douglas, Fred MacMurray, Robert Mitchum, John Wayne, Richard Widmark, Rock Hudson, Henry Fonda, Anthony Quinn, Paul Newman and James Garner.

In 1980, Ms. Bacall received the National Book Award for her autobiography, *By Myself*. Her second book, *Now*, also a bestseller, followed in 1994. A recipient of numerous lifetime achievement citations, Lauren Bacall was named one of the American Film Institute's top 25 film legends of the century and, in 1997, was chosen to receive the Kennedy Center Honors in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to American culture.