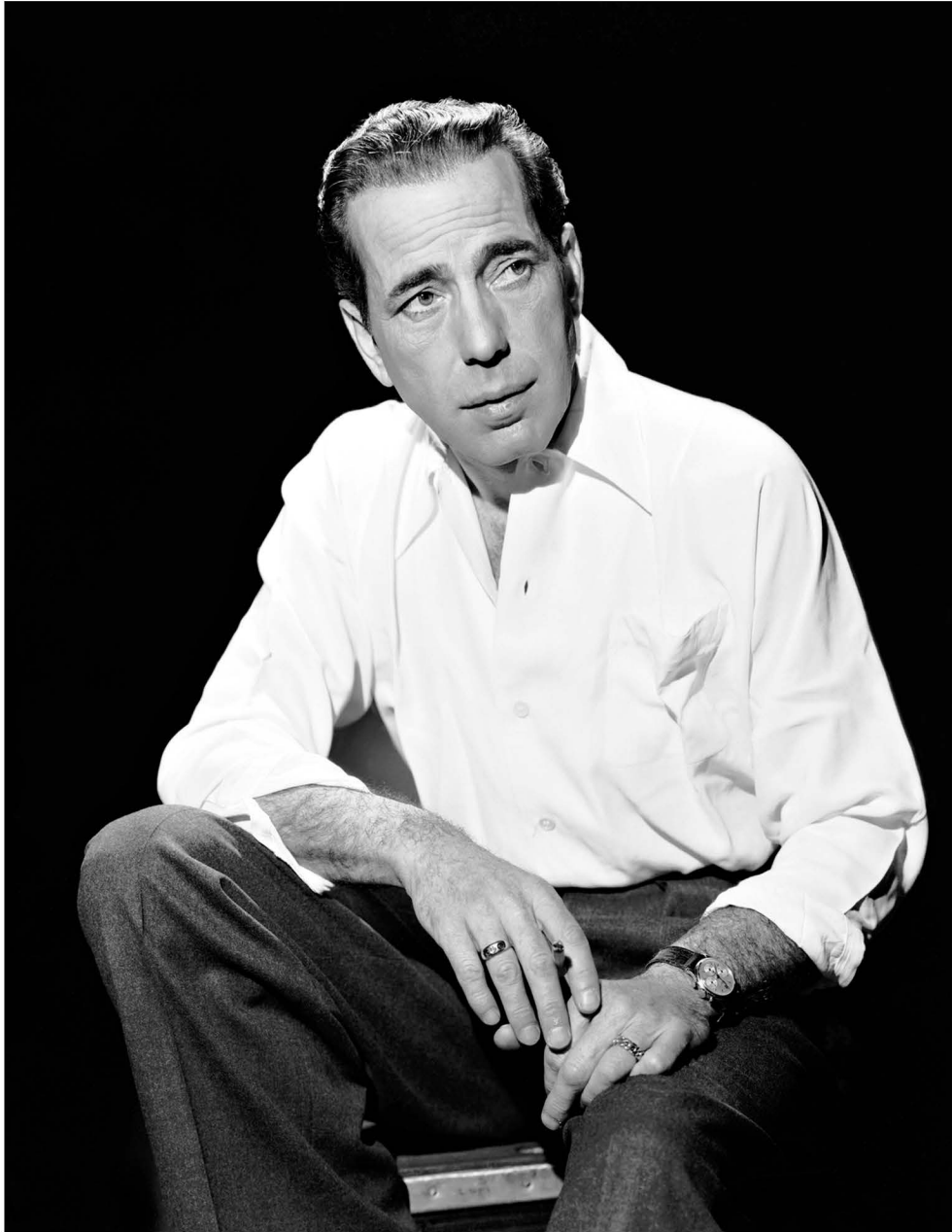


Humphrey Bogart



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Humphrey Bogart



1 - Briefing Document

Humphrey Bogart Briefing Document

This document summarizes the main themes, important ideas, and facts about Humphrey Bogart's life and career, drawing from the provided IMDb and Wikipedia excerpts.

Main Themes:

Transformation from Stage Actor to Iconic Film Star: Bogart's early career involved years of Broadway performances in often unfulfilling "White Pants Willie" roles before his breakthrough in Hollywood. His success in *The Petrified Forest* marked a pivotal shift, leading to a long and legendary film career.

The Development of the "Bogart Persona": Despite being typecast initially as a gangster, Bogart cultivated a distinct on-screen persona characterized by intelligence, cynicism, a hidden moral code, toughness, vulnerability, and self-mockery. This persona resonated deeply with audiences and solidified his iconic status.

Turbulent Personal Life Intertwined with Professional Life: Bogart's four marriages, particularly his intense and often volatile relationships with Mayo Methot and later his celebrated marriage to Lauren Bacall, significantly impacted his personal and professional life. His relationship with Bacall fueled on-screen chemistry and marked a high point in his career.

Principled Stand Against Injustice: Bogart was not afraid to speak his mind and take a stand on issues he believed in, notably his opposition to the House Un-American Activities Committee witch hunts. This outspokenness, while sometimes controversial, added to his image as an independent and principled figure.

Artistic Integrity and Disdain for Mediocrity: Despite contractual obligations and the demands of studio filmmaking, Bogart held strong opinions about the quality of his work and the industry. He openly criticized projects he deemed substandard and admired writers and intellectuals.

Enduring Legacy as a Cinematic Legend: Even after his death, Bogart's films continue to be celebrated, and he is consistently ranked among the greatest male stars of classic American cinema. His iconic characters and memorable lines have permeated popular culture.

Most Important Ideas and Facts:

Early Life and Career Beginnings:

Born Humphrey DeForest Bogart on December 25, 1899, in New York City to Maud Humphrey, a famed magazine illustrator and suffragette, and Belmont DeForest Bogart, a moderately wealthy surgeon with a secret opium addiction (IMDb, Wikipedia).

Educated at Trinity School and briefly at Phillips Academy, from which he was expelled (IMDb, Wikipedia).

Served in the U.S. Naval Reserve during World War I (IMDb, Wikipedia).

Managed a stage company for family friend William A. Brady and began regular stage performances. Early reviews, like Alexander Woollcott's in 1922, were critical, describing his acting as "inadequate" (IMDb, Wikipedia).

Made his feature film debut in the ten-minute short *Broadway's Like That* (1930) after signing with Fox, but was released after two years (IMDb, Wikipedia).

Had a breakthrough role in the Broadway production of *The Petrified Forest* (1935) as Duke Mantee (Wikipedia).
The Petrified Forest and Hollywood Breakthrough:

Won the film role of Duke Mantee in *The Petrified Forest* (1936) over Edward G. Robinson only after the star, Leslie Howard, threatened to quit unless Bogart got the part he played on Broadway (IMDb, Wikipedia).

The film was a major success and led to a long-term contract with Warner Bros. (IMDb). Bogart named his daughter Leslie Bogart to show his gratitude to Leslie Howard (IMDb).

From 1936 to 1940, he appeared in 28 films, often as a gangster (IMDb). He felt typecast, stating, "I can't get in a mild discussion without turning it into an argument. There must be something in my tone of voice, or this arrogant face—something that antagonizes everybody. Nobody likes me on sight. I suppose that's why I'm cast as the heavy" (Wikipedia).

Stardom and Iconic Roles:

His landmark year was 1941 with roles in *High Sierra* and as Sam Spade in *The Maltese Falcon*, often capitalizing on parts George Raft rejected (IMDb, Wikipedia). Bogart considered *The Maltese Falcon* "practically a masterpiece" (Wikipedia).

Played his first romantic lead as Rick Blaine in *Casablanca* (1942) opposite Ingrid Bergman. The film won the Academy Award for Best Picture, and Bogart received his first Best Actor nomination (IMDb, Wikipedia). Bosley Crowther described his character as used "to inject a cold point of tough resistance to evil forces afoot in Europe today" (Wikipedia).

Other iconic films include *The Big Sleep* (1946), *Key Largo* (1948), and *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre* (1948) (IMDb). He felt the public gave *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, with its intelligent script and direction, "a cold shoulder" at the box office (Wikipedia).

Personal Life:

Married four times: Helen Menken, Mary Philips, Mayo Methot ("the Battling Bogarts"), and Lauren Bacall (Wikipedia).

His relationship with Lauren Bacall began during the filming of *To Have and Have Not* (1944). Despite a 25-year age difference, they formed a strong bond and married in 1945 (Wikipedia). Bacall later said, "No one has ever written a romance better than we lived it" (Wikipedia).

They starred in several films together, including *The Big Sleep*, *Dark Passage*, and *Key Largo* (Wikipedia).

Owned a 55-foot sailing yacht named *Santana* and loved spending time at sea (Wikipedia). He said, "An actor needs something to stabilize his personality, something to nail down what he really is, not what he is currently pretending to be" (Wikipedia).

Became a father at age 49 with the birth of his son Stephen in 1949 and daughter Leslie in 1952 (Wikipedia).

Later Career and Recognition:

Won the Best Actor Academy Award for *The African Queen* (1951) (IMDb, Wikipedia). He considered this his best film performance (Wikipedia). Upon winning, he said, "No one does it alone. As in tennis, you need a good opponent or partner to bring out the best in you. John and Katie helped me to be where I am now" (Wikipedia).

Received his final Oscar nomination for *The Caine Mutiny* (1954) (IMDb, Wikipedia).
Formed his own production company, *Santana Productions* (Wikipedia).

Was a founding member of the Hollywood Rat Pack (Wikipedia). Bacall famously said, "You look like a goddamn rat pack" after a long party (Wikipedia).

Diagnosed with esophageal cancer and died on January 14, 1957, at the age of 57 (IMDb, Wikipedia). At his funeral, John Huston delivered the eulogy, stating, "He is quite irreplaceable. There will never be another like him" (Wikipedia).

Four of his films (Casablanca, The Maltese Falcon, The Treasure of the Sierra Madre, and The African Queen) made the American Film Institute's 1998 list of the greatest American movies (Wikipedia).

In 1999, the American Film Institute selected Bogart as the greatest male star of classic American cinema (Wikipedia).

Quotes:

"The trouble with the world is that it's always one drink behind." (IMDb - Trivia)

Regarding his early career roles: "White Pants Willie" roles. (Wikipedia)

About The Maltese Falcon: "It is practically a masterpiece. I don't have many things I'm proud of ... but that's one." (Wikipedia)

Lauren Bacall on their romance: "No one has ever written a romance better than we lived it." (Wikipedia)

Bogart on the transient nature of acting: "An actor needs something to stabilize his personality, something to nail down what he really is, not what he is currently pretending to be." (Wikipedia)

Upon winning his Oscar: "No one does it alone. As in tennis, you need a good opponent or partner to bring out the best in you. John and Katie helped me to be where I am now." (Wikipedia)

John Huston's eulogy: "He is quite irreplaceable. There will never be another like him." (Wikipedia)

Final instructions on a charm bracelet for Bacall: "If you want anything, just whistle." (Wikipedia)

Humphrey Bogart



2 - Detailed Timeline

Humphrey Bogart Detailed Timeline

1899:

December 25: Humphrey DeForest Bogart is born in New York City to Maud Humphrey and Belmont DeForest Bogart.

Early Life and Education:

Attends Delancey School and then Trinity School in NYC.

Enrolls in Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, with the expectation of attending Yale for medical studies.

1918: Expelled from Phillips Academy after one semester due to poor grades and behavioral issues.

Military Service:

Spring: Enlists in the U.S. Naval Reserve during World War I.

Serves primarily ferrying troops back from Europe after the armistice.

1919: Discharged from the Navy as a Petty Officer 2nd Class.

1944: Volunteers for the Coast Guard Temporary Reserve during World War II, patrolling the California coastline on his yacht, Santana. Rejection for re-enlistment in the Navy due to age.

Early Career (1920s):

1920-1922: Manages a stage company owned by family friend William A. Brady, performing various tasks at Brady's film studio.

Begins regular stage performances.

1922: Makes his Broadway debut in "Drifting." Alexander Woolcott deems his acting inadequate.

Works as a shipper and bond salesman.

Resumes friendship with Bill Brady Jr. and obtains an office job with William A. Brady's World Films company, aspiring to screenwriting, directing, and production.

Serves as stage manager for Alice Brady's play "A Ruined Lady."

Makes his stage debut (one line) in Alice Brady's 1921 play "Drifting."

Appears in at least 18 Broadway productions between 1922 and 1935.

1926: Marries actress Helen Menken.

1927: Divorces Helen Menken.

Early Career (1928-1935):

1928: Marries actress Mary Philips. Makes his film debut with Helen Hayes in the two-reeler "The Dancing Town."

1930: Gains a contract with Fox Film Corporation. His feature film debut is a ten-minute short, "Broadway's Like That," co-starring Ruth Etting and Joan Blondell. Appears in John Ford's "Up the River" with Spencer Tracy, who first calls him "Bogie."

1931: Appears in "Bad Sister" with Bette Davis. Fox releases him after two years. Shuttles between Hollywood and the New York stage, experiencing periods of unemployment.

His father dies in debt, which Bogart eventually pays off.

His marriage to Mary Philips becomes strained due to his dissatisfaction with his career and heavy drinking.

1934: Stars in the Broadway play "Invitation to a Murder." Producer Arthur Hopkins offers him the role of Duke Mantee in Robert E. Sherwood's "The Petrified Forest."

1935: "The Petrified Forest" has a successful run on Broadway, with Bogart receiving critical acclaim. Breakthrough and Warner Bros. Contract (1936-1940):

1936: Warner Bros. buys the screen rights to "The Petrified Forest." Leslie Howard insists that Bogart play Duke Mantee in the film adaptation, leading to Bogart's breakthrough role in the successful film. He signs a long-term contract with Warner Bros.

Typecast as a gangster, appearing in numerous B movie crime dramas.

1937: Appears in "Dead End" (on loan to Samuel Goldwyn) as a gangster modeled after Baby Face Nelson. Divorces Mary Philips. Appears in "Black Legion."

1938: Marries actress Mayo Methot. Appears in "Swing Your Lady," which he considers his worst film. Appears in "Angels with Dirty Faces."

1939: Appears in "The Return of Doctor X," his only horror film. Appears in "The Roaring Twenties" with James Cagney. Appears in "You Can't Get Away with Murder."

From 1936 to 1940, appears in 28 films, mostly as a gangster.

Early Stardom (1941-1943):

1941: A landmark year with leading roles in classics: "High Sierra" (his last major gangster film) and "The Maltese Falcon" as Sam Spade, directed by John Huston.

1942: Stars in "Casablanca" as Rick Blaine with Ingrid Bergman, earning his first Academy Award nomination for Best Actor. The film becomes a major success and a cultural icon. Appears in "The Big Shot." Goes on United Service Organizations and War Bond tours with Mayo Methot in 1943 and 1944.

Bogie and Bacall (1944-1948):

1944: Introduced to Lauren Bacall during the filming of "Passage to Marseille." Stars with Bacall in "To Have and Have Not," leading to a romantic relationship.

1945: Divorces Mayo Methot. Marries Lauren Bacall in May at Louis Bromfield's country home. Moves into a mansion in Holmby Hills.

1946: Stars with Bacall in "The Big Sleep."

1947: Stars with Bacall in "Dark Passage." Joins wife Lauren Bacall and other actors protesting the House Un-American Activities Committee witch hunts.

1948: Forms his own production company, Santana Productions. Stars with Bacall in "Key Largo," directed by John

Huston. Stars in "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre," directed by John Huston.

Later Career and Santana Productions (1949-1953):

1949: His first child with Lauren Bacall, Stephen Humphrey Bogart, is born. Stars in Santana Productions' "Knock on Any Door" and "Tokyo Joe."

1950: Stars in Santana Productions' "In a Lonely Place." His contract with Warners requires him to make one film a year for them.

1951: Wins the Academy Award for Best Actor for "The African Queen," directed by John Huston and co-starring Katharine Hepburn. Santana Productions releases "Sirocco" (starring Bogart) and "The Family Secret" (without him). Makes "The Enforcer" for Warners.

1952: His second child with Lauren Bacall, Leslie Howard Bogart, is born.

1953: Stars in Santana Productions' "Beat the Devil," directed by John Huston. His contract with Warners is dissolved by mutual consent.

Final Years (1954-1957):

1954: Stars in "The Caine Mutiny," earning his final Academy Award nomination for Best Actor. Stars in "Sabrina" with Audrey Hepburn and William Holden, and "The Barefoot Contessa" with Ava Gardner.

1955: Appears in "The Desperate Hours" with Fredric March, "The Left Hand of God" with Gene Tierney, and "We're No Angels" with Joan Bennett. Appears in a televised adaptation of "The Petrified Forest" with Lauren Bacall and Henry Fonda. Sells his interest in Santana to Columbia.

Diagnosed with esophageal cancer.

1956: Stars in his final film, "The Harder They Fall." Undergoes unsuccessful surgery for cancer.

1957: January 14: Humphrey Bogart dies in his sleep at his Hollywood home following surgeries and a battle with throat cancer. A simple funeral is held, with a eulogy by John Huston. He is cremated, and his ashes are interred at Forest Lawn Memorial Park.

Posthumous Recognition:

1960: Posthumously inducted into the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

1997: Ranked the number-one movie legend of all time by Entertainment Weekly. Honored with a stamp in the "Legends of Hollywood" series.

1999: Rated the greatest male screen legend by the American Film Institute.

2006: 103rd Street between Broadway and West End Avenue in New York City is renamed Humphrey Bogart Place.

Cast of Characters:

Humphrey DeForest Bogart (1899-1957): The central figure. A legendary American actor known for his distinctive voice, cynical but honorable persona, and iconic roles in films like "The Maltese Falcon," "Casablanca," and "The African Queen." He navigated a complex personal life with four marriages and a career that saw him rise from Broadway to enduring Hollywood stardom.

Maud Humphrey (Bogart's Mother): A famed magazine illustrator and suffragette. She was a successful and independent woman who significantly out-earned her surgeon husband. Her relationship with her son was formal and lacked overt affection.

Belmont DeForest Bogart (Bogart's Father): A moderately wealthy surgeon who secretly suffered from opium addiction. His relationship with Humphrey was also somewhat distant.

Alice Brady: Actress and daughter of William A. Brady. Bogart worked for her father's stage company and made his stage debut in one of her plays.

Alexander Woollcott: A prominent writer and critic who described Bogart's early acting as inadequate.

Ruth Etting: Singer and actress who co-starred with Bogart in his first film short, "Broadway's Like That."

Joan Blondell: Actress who co-starred with Bogart in "Broadway's Like That."

Leslie Howard (1893-1943): A leading British actor who starred in the Broadway and film versions of "The Petrified Forest." He was instrumental in Bogart getting his breakthrough role by insisting Warner Bros. cast him. Bogart named his daughter after Howard in gratitude.

Edward G. Robinson (1893-1973): A prominent gangster film star who was initially considered for the role of Duke Mantee in the film version of "The Petrified Forest."

George Raft (1901-1980): Another prominent gangster film star who turned down roles in "High Sierra" and "The Maltese Falcon," which subsequently went to Bogart and significantly boosted his career.

Ida Lupino (1918-1995): Actress who co-starred with Bogart in "High Sierra."

John Huston (1906-1987): A highly acclaimed film director with whom Bogart had a strong personal and professional connection. He directed Bogart in several of his most iconic films, including "The Maltese Falcon," "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre," and "The African Queen," for which Huston won an Oscar for Best Director and Bogart won Best Actor.

Sydney Greenstreet (1879-1954): A memorable character actor who co-starred with Bogart in "The Maltese Falcon" and "Casablanca."

Peter Lorre (1904-1964): A distinctive character actor who co-starred with Bogart in "The Maltese Falcon" and "Casablanca," and later in "Beat the Devil."

Mary Astor (1906-1987): Actress who played the treacherous female lead in "The Maltese Falcon."

Ingrid Bergman (1915-1982): Legendary actress who co-starred with Bogart in "Casablanca." Their on-screen chemistry is considered one of the greatest in cinematic history, despite their professional rather than personal rapport off-screen.

Claude Rains (1889-1967): Acclaimed actor who co-starred with Bogart in "Casablanca."

Paul Henreid (1908-1992): Actor who co-starred with Bogart in "Casablanca." Bogart enjoyed playing chess with him.

Lauren Bacall (1924-2014): Iconic actress who became Bogart's fourth wife. They shared a famous and passionate romance that began during the filming of "To Have and Have Not." They starred in several other films together, including "The Big Sleep," "Dark Passage," and "Key Largo." She was a strong and supportive partner throughout his later life and illness.

Howard Hawks (1896-1977): Influential film director who directed Bogart and Bacall in "To Have and Have Not" and

"The Big Sleep." He played a significant role in their early relationship and Bacall's career.

Raymond Chandler (1888-1959): Celebrated crime fiction writer whose novel "The Big Sleep" was adapted into a film starring Bogart and Bacall. He admired Bogart's portrayal of his detective character.

Louis Bromfield (1896-1956): Pulitzer Prize-winning author and close friend of Bogart, at whose country home Bogart and Bacall were married.

Dick Powell (1904-1963): Actor from whom Bogart bought his beloved sailing yacht, Santana.

Lionel Barrymore (1878-1954): Veteran actor who co-starred with Bogart and Bacall in "Key Largo."

Claire Trevor (1910-2000): Academy Award-winning actress who co-starred with Bogart and Bacall in "Key Largo."

Walter Huston (1883-1950): Acclaimed actor and father of John Huston, who co-starred with Bogart in "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre" and won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor.

Gloria Grahame (1923-1981): Actress who co-starred with Bogart in the Santana Productions film "In a Lonely Place."

Truman Capote (1924-1984): Celebrated writer who co-wrote the screenplay for "Beat the Devil," starring Bogart.

Katharine Hepburn (1907-2003): Legendary actress who co-starred with Bogart in "The African Queen," for which Bogart won his only Best Actor Oscar.

Sam Spiegel (1901-1985): Film producer who was instrumental in bringing "The African Queen" to the screen.

Pope Pius XII (1876-1958): The Pope whom Bogart and Bacall visited during their trip to Europe before filming "The African Queen."

Fred MacMurray (1908-1991), Robert Francis (1930-1955), Van Johnson (1916-2008): Co-stars of Bogart in "The Caine Mutiny."

Edward Dmytryk (1908-1999): Director of "The Caine Mutiny."

Cary Grant (1904-1986): Actor who was initially Billy Wilder's first choice for the older male lead in "Sabrina."

Audrey Hepburn (1929-1993): Iconic actress who co-starred with Bogart and William Holden in "Sabrina."

William Holden (1918-1981): Actor who co-starred with Bogart and Audrey Hepburn in "Sabrina."

Billy Wilder (1906-2002): Acclaimed director of "Sabrina," with whom Bogart had a difficult working relationship.

Ava Gardner (1922-1990): Actress who co-starred with Bogart in "The Barefoot Contessa."

Joseph L. Mankiewicz (1909-1993): Director of "The Barefoot Contessa."

Frank Sinatra (1915-1998): Legendary singer and actor, and a member of Bogart's "Rat Pack."

Verita Bouvaire-Thompson: Bogart's long-time studio assistant with whom he had a discreet affair.

Gene Tierney (1920-1991): Actress who co-starred with Bogart in "The Left Hand of God." Bogart showed her kindness and support during a difficult period.

Joan Bennett (1910-1990): Actress who co-starred with Bogart in "We're No Angels." Bogart supported her despite a

public scandal.

Rod Steiger (1925-2002): Actor who co-starred with Bogart in his final film, "The Harder They Fall."

Edward R. Murrow (1908-1965): Prominent journalist whose show "Person to Person" featured Bogart and Bacall.

Jack Benny (1894-1974): Famous comedian whose television program featured Bogart in a rare sketch-comedy appearance.

Henry Fonda (1905-1982): Acclaimed actor who played Leslie Howard's role in a televised adaptation of "The Petrified Forest" starring Bogart and Bacall.

Stephen Humphrey Bogart (Born 1949): Bogart's son with Lauren Bacall, who became an author and biographer of his father.

Leslie Howard Bogart (Born 1952): Bogart's daughter with Lauren Bacall, named in honor of Leslie Howard.

Judy Garland (1922-1969) and Sidney Luft (1915-2005): Celebrated actress/singer and her husband who were present at the Las Vegas party where Lauren Bacall coined the term "Rat Pack."

Michael Romanoff (1890-1971) and Gloria Romanoff: Friends of Bogart whose Beverly Hills restaurant became the unofficial headquarters of the Rat Pack.

David Niven (1910-1983) and Angie Dickinson (Born 1931): Actors who were part of the social circle that became known as the Rat Pack.

Kirk Douglas (1916-2020) and Susan Hayward (1917-1975): Actors who replaced Bogart and Bacall in the film project "Melville Goodwin, U.S.A." (re-titled "Top Secret Affair") after Bogart became too ill.

Spencer Tracy (1900-1967): Close friend and early colleague of Bogart, who gave him the nickname "Bogie." He visited Bogart shortly before his death.

Olivia de Havilland (1916-2020), Bing Crosby (1903-1977), James Cagney (1899-1986), Errol Flynn (1909-1959), Harry Cohn (1891-1958), Gregory Peck (1916-2003), James Mason (1909-1984), David O. Selznick (1902-1965), Jack L. Warner (1892-1978): Among the many notable figures who attended Bogart's funeral.

Humphrey Bogart



3 - FAQs

Humphrey Bogart FAQs

What were Humphrey Bogart's early life and upbringing like? Humphrey DeForest Bogart was born on December 25, 1899, in New York City. His father, Belmont DeForest Bogart, was a moderately wealthy surgeon with English and Dutch heritage, and his mother, Maud Humphrey, was a successful magazine illustrator and suffragette of English descent. Bogart had two younger sisters. His parents were formal and not openly affectionate. He attended private schools, including Trinity School and Phillips Academy, but did not excel academically and never went to Yale as his parents had hoped.

How did Humphrey Bogart transition from stage to screen? After a brief stint in the U.S. Naval Reserve during World War I and various odd jobs, Bogart became involved in theater through a family friend, William A. Brady. He started as a stage manager and made his acting debut in 1921. He appeared in numerous Broadway productions throughout the 1920s and early 1930s, often in light comedic roles which he disliked. His film debut was in a 1928 short, followed by a feature role in 1930. He moved back and forth between Hollywood and New York, eventually gaining his breakthrough role as the menacing Duke Mantee in the 1935 Broadway play *The Petrified Forest*. When Warner Bros. adapted the play into a film in 1936, the insistence of the play's star, Leslie Howard, secured Bogart the role, launching his Hollywood career.

What kind of roles did Humphrey Bogart typically play in his early Hollywood career? Following the success of *The Petrified Forest*, Bogart signed a contract with Warner Bros. and was largely typecast in gangster and villainous supporting roles in numerous B-movies. Despite appearing in 28 films between 1936 and 1940, he often played characters who were killed or imprisoned. While he was grateful for the work, he felt limited by these roles and yearned for more complex characters.

What were some of Humphrey Bogart's most iconic roles and what made them so memorable? Bogart achieved stardom with a string of iconic roles starting in 1941, including Sam Spade in *The Maltese Falcon* (1941), Rick Blaine in *Casablanca* (1942), and Philip Marlowe in *The Big Sleep* (1946). These characters were often complex anti-heroes: tough, cynical loners with a hidden moral code operating in corrupt worlds. His nuanced portrayals, sharp delivery, and distinctive persona resonated with audiences and defined the film noir era. *Casablanca*, in particular, cemented his status as a romantic leading man despite his characteristic toughness.

How significant was Humphrey Bogart's relationship with Lauren Bacall, both personally and professionally? Humphrey Bogart's relationship with Lauren Bacall was incredibly significant. They fell in love while filming *To Have and Have Not* (1944), when he was 44 and she was 19. They married in 1945 and remained together until his death. Bacall became his fourth wife and they had two children. Professionally, they starred in four films together: *To Have and Have Not*, *The Big Sleep* (1946), *Dark Passage* (1947), and *Key Largo* (1948), their on-screen chemistry becoming a major draw for audiences. Bacall was a strong and supportive partner, and their relationship is considered one of Hollywood's most legendary romances.

What was Humphrey Bogart's involvement with the House Un-American Activities Committee and his political views? Humphrey Bogart was a liberal Democrat who actively opposed the House Un-American Activities Committee's (HUAC) investigations into alleged communist influence in Hollywood. In 1947, he organized the Committee for the First Amendment, leading a delegation to Washington D.C. to protest what he perceived as harassment of writers and actors. While he was against communism, he believed HUAC's tactics were unjust and a threat to free speech. To clarify his stance and counter negative publicity, he wrote an article titled "I'm No Communist."

What were some of the challenges and triumphs of Humphrey Bogart's later career, including his Academy Award win? In his later career, Bogart took on more diverse and challenging roles. He formed his own production company, Santana Productions, though it faced financial difficulties. He achieved critical acclaim for films like *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre* (1948) and *In a Lonely Place* (1950). A major triumph was his Academy Award for Best Actor for his role as Charlie Allnut in *The African Queen* (1951), which he considered the best performance of his career. Despite his success, he faced health issues in his final years but continued to work, delivering memorable performances in films like *The Caine Mutiny* (1954) and *Sabrina* (1954).

How did Humphrey Bogart's life end, and what is his lasting legacy? Humphrey Bogart died on January 14, 1957, at the age of 57, from esophageal cancer. A heavy smoker and drinker, he was diagnosed in 1956 and underwent surgery, but the disease was too advanced. His death was a significant loss to the film industry, and his funeral was attended by numerous Hollywood luminaries. Bogart's lasting legacy is that of a cinematic icon. The American Film Institute named him the greatest male star of classic American cinema. His iconic characters, distinctive voice and mannerisms, and the enduring popularity of his films, such as *Casablanca*, *The Maltese Falcon*, and *The African Queen*, continue to influence popular culture and inspire filmmakers and actors. He is remembered for his portrayal of tough but often vulnerable heroes and his no-nonsense, principled personality both on and off screen.

Humphrey Bogart



4 - Study Guide

Humphrey Bogart Study Guide

Quiz:

Describe Humphrey Bogart's early life and family background. What were his parents' professions, and how might his upbringing have influenced his later life?

Outline Bogart's initial foray into acting. How did he transition from stage to screen, and what were some of his early experiences in Hollywood?

Explain the significance of the film *The Petrified Forest* in Bogart's career. How did he secure the lead role, and what impact did the film have on his trajectory?

Discuss the types of roles Bogart typically played in the late 1930s before achieving major stardom. What kind of characters was he often cast as, and what were his feelings about this typecasting?

Identify two films that are considered Bogart's breakthrough to stardom in 1941. What were the names of these films, and what made his roles in them significant?

Describe Bogart's iconic role in *Casablanca*. What are some key characteristics of his character, Rick Blaine, and why is this film so enduring?

Explain the personal and professional relationship between Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. How did they meet, and in how many films did they co-star?

Discuss Bogart's involvement with the House Un-American Activities Committee. What stance did he take, and what were the consequences of his actions?

Describe Bogart's later career and his Academy Award win. For which film did he win, and what were some of his other notable roles during this period?

Detail the circumstances surrounding Humphrey Bogart's death. What illness did he suffer from, and how was he remembered by his peers?

Answer Key:

Humphrey Bogart was born into a relatively affluent New York City family. His father, Belmont DeForest Bogart, was a surgeon, and his mother, Maud Humphrey, was a successful magazine illustrator and suffragette. His parents were reportedly formal and showed little overt affection, which may have contributed to his later independent and somewhat cynical demeanor.

Bogart's acting career began on Broadway after managing a stage company. He made his film debut in a short film and then signed a contract with Fox, but was released after two years. After several years of minor film roles and stage work, his breakthrough came with the stage and film versions of *The Petrified Forest*.

The Petrified Forest was Bogart's breakthrough role, transitioning him from minor parts to a leading man. He secured the role of Duke Mantee after the star of the Broadway production, Leslie Howard, insisted that Bogart reprise his stage role in the film adaptation, threatening to quit otherwise. The film's success led to a long-term contract with Warner Bros.

Before achieving major stardom, Bogart was frequently typecast as a gangster or villain in B movie crime dramas. He appeared in numerous such films, often getting killed or jailed. While he was proud of his success, he was somewhat frustrated by the repetitive nature of these roles and longed for more complex characters.

Bogart's breakthrough to stardom in 1941 is marked by his roles in *High Sierra*, where he played a gangster with depth, and as Sam Spade in the classic film noir *The Maltese Falcon*. These roles showcased his ability to portray complex and compelling characters beyond typical villainous stereotypes.

In *Casablanca*, Bogart played Rick Blaine, a cynical American expatriate and nightclub owner in wartime Casablanca. Rick is a complex character haunted by a past love, forced to make difficult moral choices amidst the political turmoil. The film's enduring appeal lies in its themes of sacrifice, love, and resistance against oppression, embodied by Bogart's iconic portrayal.

Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall developed a significant personal and professional relationship after meeting on the set of *To Have and Have Not*. Despite a significant age difference, they fell in love and married. They co-starred in four films together: *To Have and Have Not*, *The Big Sleep*, *Dark Passage*, and *Key Largo*, becoming a legendary Hollywood couple known for their on-screen chemistry and off-screen romance.

Bogart was a liberal Democrat who opposed the House Un-American Activities Committee's investigation of Hollywood figures for alleged communist sympathies. He formed the Committee for the First Amendment and traveled to Washington D.C. to protest. While he later distanced himself from the "Hollywood Ten" to mitigate negative publicity, his actions demonstrated his independent and principled nature.

Bogart's later career saw him win the Academy Award for Best Actor for his role as Charlie Allnut in *The African Queen* (1951). Other notable roles during this period include *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, *In a Lonely Place*, *The Caine Mutiny*, and *Sabrina*, showcasing his versatility in a range of character types.

Humphrey Bogart died on January 14, 1957, at the age of 57, following a battle with esophageal cancer. Despite undergoing surgery, the disease had metastasized. He was remembered as a unique and irreplaceable figure in Hollywood, admired for his talent, integrity, and refusal to conform to industry norms, as reflected in John Huston's eulogy.

Essay Format Questions:

Explore the evolution of Humphrey Bogart's on-screen persona throughout his career. How did his early gangster roles contribute to his later iconic status in film noir and adventure films?

Analyze the impact of John Huston on Humphrey Bogart's career. Discuss their collaborations and how Huston's direction and the roles he offered shaped Bogart's legacy.

Discuss the significance of *Casablanca* within the context of World War II propaganda and its enduring cultural relevance. How does Bogart's performance contribute to the film's lasting impact?

Examine the dynamics of Humphrey Bogart's marriages, particularly his relationship with Lauren Bacall, and how his personal life may have influenced his professional career.

Evaluate Humphrey Bogart's legacy as a cultural icon. What qualities and performances cemented his status as one of the greatest male stars of classic American cinema?

Glossary of Key Terms:

Film Noir: A cinematic term used primarily to describe stylish Hollywood crime dramas, particularly those that emphasize cynicism, moral ambiguity, and often feature private investigators and femme fatales.

House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC): A committee of the U.S. House of Representatives that investigated alleged subversive activities by private citizens, public employees, and organizations, particularly during the Cold

War period and the Red Scare.

Typecasting: The practice in the film and television industry of repeatedly casting an actor in the same type of role based on their previous performances or perceived characteristics.

Breakthrough Role: A performance by an actor that leads to widespread recognition and significantly advances their career, often transitioning them from supporting roles to leading roles or elevating their status.

Studio System: The method of film production and distribution dominant in Hollywood from the 1920s to the 1950s, characterized by large studios with long-term contracts with actors, directors, and other crew members, controlling all aspects of filmmaking.

Method Acting: A range of training and rehearsal techniques that seek to encourage sincere and emotionally expressive performances, developed by Lee Strasberg and others based on the system of Konstantin Stanislavski. (While not explicitly stated as Bogart's approach, understanding different acting styles provides context.)

Pulp Magazine: Inexpensive fiction magazines that were popular from the early 20th century through the 1950s, often featuring sensational stories in genres like crime, mystery, and adventure, and serving as source material for many films noir.

Expatriate: A person who lives outside their native country.

Vichy France: The common name of the French State headed by Marshal Philippe Pétain during World War II, which collaborated with Nazi Germany.

Academy Awards (Oscars): Annual awards presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) to recognize excellence in cinematic achievements in the film industry.